FCα FLOWER COMICS α

# 俎上の鯉は二度跳ねろ

水城せとな

Setona Mizushiro

The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

Setona Mizushiro

Copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro

Copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro

Copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro

# 水城せとな

# 俎上の鯉は二度跳ねろ

Setona Mizushiro present

The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

Setona Mizushiro

# The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MELAN(HOLY BUTTERFLY ◆ 3

THE BLACK CAT YAWNS ◆ 54

OWL ◆ 59

THE CARP ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK JUMPS TWICE ◆ 137

HEY
THE NEW SECTION HEAD
SEEMS NICE HE'S KINDA COOL, DON'T YOU THINK?
OOTOMO-SAN?
WELL, I GUESS HE'S GOOD-LOOKING
CONSERVATIVE, THOUGH
HE'S DIVORCED, YOU KNOW
REALLY?
SO HE'S AVAILABLE THEN?
OH, SO YOU'VE GOT YOUR EYE ON HIM, TAMAKI
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
WELL, HE'S DEFINITELY GOT A GIRL-FRIEND
I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT HIM
FOR STARTERS HIS TASTE IN NECKTIES... IT LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN PICKED IT OUT
HE'S GOT THE COMPOSURE OF A MAN WITH LOVE IN HIS LIFE

憂鬱バタフライ
Melancholy Butterfly

"LISTEN, KYOUICHI."
"LISTEN TO A WOMAN NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS."
"IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL HAVE A PEACEFUL LIFE."
"EVEN IF YOU THINK SHE'S IRRATIONAL... JUST SMILE AND BE NICE AND DON'T MAKE A FUSS."

WAS IT BECAUSE OF THIS LESSON THAT I WAS RELATIVELY BLESSED WITH WOMEN IN MY YOUTH?

BE NICE AND LISTEN MEEKLY TO WHATEVER A WOMAN SAYS

AND GO OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HUH?
AFTER WE WENT OUT DRINKING TO CELEBRATE YOUR PROMOTION WE WOUND UP DOING IT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT I WAS LOOKING BACK OVER HALF MY LIFE
My heroine is org
Don't tell me you forgot
YOU WERE MOANING QUITE A BIT
THE HALF OF YOUR LIFE DURING WHICH YOU WERE DUMPED, DISCARDED AND LEFT DRIFTING BY A BUNCH OF WOMEN, THEN, WOUND UP GETTING SCREWED BY AN OBSESSIVE GAY STALKER IN THE END?
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GIVE SUCH A BRUTALLY HONEST SUMMARY?!
You're really pathetic.
FOR THE FULL STORY PLEASE READ "THE CORNERED MOUSE DREAMS OF CHEESE."
exhale

BACK IN SCHOOL, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A GOOD-LOOKING UNDERCLASSMAN, BUT, IN FACT HE W.S GAY AND HARBORED A PERSISTENT ONE-SIDED LOVE FOR ME.
IMAGASE WAS MY UNDERCLASSMAN IN COLLEGE CURRENTLY, HE S .N INVESTIGATOR FOR A DETECTIVE AGENCY.
ISN'T THAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES?
STATISTICS SHOW, WHEN YOU GIVE SOMEONE A KISS BEFORE WORK, HIS LIFE SPAN AND PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE.
USING ALL THE STALKER-ISH MEANS AT HIS DISPOSAL HE GRADUALLY WON ME OVER.
AFTER MY DIVORCE IMAGASE STARTED HANGING AROUND MY HOUSE
SFX RUSTLE
IN YOUR HEART, YOU ACCEPT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS NO DIFFERENT FROM A MARRIED COUPLE.
THE RESULTS DON'T LIE
OH, THAT!
Stop it!
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I GIVE YOU A KISS EVERY MORNING
I'm good luck!
THIRTY-ONE IS YOUNG FOR A SECTION HEAD.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD MYSELF TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME ...
I'LL GET THE BATH READY DARLING
...
YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF NERVE LATELY!

I THOUGHT A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!
I NEVER OCCURRED TO ME, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I'D WIND UP WITH SOMEONE OF MY OWN SEX
I USED TO RESIST VEHEMENTLY
IN HALF A YEAR, I QUICKLY WOUND UP HERE
AH
DID YOU DRAW THE BATH?
JUST ONE MORE TIME
It's easy to get carried away...
WELL, PARTS OF ME HAVE CHANGED
I HAVEN'T CHANGED
LIFE DOESN'T CHANGE JUST BECAUSE A MAN TAKES YOUR VIRGINITY "BACK THERE"
I HAVE THINGS IN MY HOUSE THAT I'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE LIKE...
BUT EVEN MORE THAN THAT...
LOTION
ENEMA

I REALIZE NOW THAT I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD SEX FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE MYSELF
I'D ALWAYS TRIED TO TAKE A WOMAN'S NEEDS SERIOUSLY WHEN WE MADE LOVE BUT...
GENERATED SENSATIONS THAT I'D NEVER KNOWN BEFORE THAT'S THE MAJOR THING
THE "WOMAN'S POSITION," SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EXPERIENCE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE
FOR EXAMPLE, QUIETLY WATCHING YOUR PARTNER'S DESPERATE EXPRESSION
YOUR FIVE SENSES INSATIABLY LUST FOR COMFORT EVEN FROM TRIVIAL THINGS
IT PRODUCES A PECULIAR PLEASURE THAT'S SEPARATED FROM DISCOMFORT BY A FINE LINE
THE ACTION OF YOUR BODY BEING DEFILED
THE STRANGE FEELING WHEN A PART OF ANOTHER PERSON'S BODY IS PUT INSIDE YOU...
THE WHOLE THING IS PLEASURABLE
THE WEIGHT OF YOUR PARTNER'S BODY ON YOU
THE PLEASURE THAT ANOTHER GIVES YOU

YOU KNOW, I THINK SEX IS BETTER FOR WOMEN.
THESE NEW EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE ARE ENGRAVED IN MY EVERY CELL
WHETHER IT'S HOW HE TREATS ME THAT MAKES ME HAPPY OR HOW HE TOUCHES ME THAT MAKES ME FEEL LOVED
NEVER MIND. PRETEND YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT...
That was stupid.
Is that it? Is that what you meant?
...MAYBE I JUST GOT THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT EVER!
COME ON! THAT'S ...
I'M WORRIED YOU'LL BE TAKEN IN BY SOME STRANGE HOMO.
When you're under someone else's influence, you accommodate quite easily, don't you.
YOU GOT USED TO IT SURPRISINGLY FAST, SENPAI.
OR ...
DOESN'T IT DEPEND ON HER PARTNER?
REALLY?
HOW ....
-thump
...SINCE WE'VE STARTED SLEEPING TOGETHER, YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH A WOMAN EVEN ONCE.
BECAUSE, SENPAI

LET ME TELL YOU SENPAI!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, SO DON'T GO BALLISTIC.
YOU'LL BE EATING SUSHI MADE FROM SHRIMP THAT FED ON MY CORPSE!
FORGET WOMEN FOR A MOMENT. IF YOU DO SOMETHING FUNNY WITH ANY GUY BUT ME, I'LL THROW MYSELF IN TOKYO BAY! I'M SERIOUS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
ALTHOUGH, IF I HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR MEN FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.
YOU THINK I'D NEGLECT TO CHECK UP ON YOU?
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT HE CARES A GREAT DEAL FOR ME
I haven't changed Don't you normally look good?
I can't trust you at all!
You've been looking really good lately.
shaq
shaa
WITHOUT TRUST I COULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED THIS AT ALL
KYOUICHI'S MENTAL PICTURE
WORRYING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE. YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT WHEN A PROBLEM COMES UP.
Hahahaha
HOW CAN YOU GET USED TO IT? IDIOT!
ARE YOU GOING TO WIND UP LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH A MAN? IS THIS A DESIRABLE GOAL?
Sigh...
YOU CAN'T HELP IT IF THIS HAPPENS. ENJOY IT!
GRAY
BLACK
WHITE
shaa
HUH? YEAH
NEXT SATURDAY DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS?
BY THE WAY, SENPAI
BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL UNNECESSARILY ANXIOUS.
MY DAYS ARE STRANGELY PEACEFUL. EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL.
Yeah. That's right. I shouldn't worry now.
:C

blush
Shit!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S YOUR 29TH BIRTHDAY
HE'S CUTE
Even if he's not a woman
F*cking Duck.
I want to eat..
IN THAT WAY, HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM A WOMAN
"DON'T FORGET ANNIVERSARIES" WITH WOMEN, THAT'S A CARDINAL RULE I'D NEVER OVERLOOK IT
Even though he's not a woman...
BIRTH DAY, HUH?
WE JUST CELEBRATED MY PROMOTION WE CAN'T JUST HAVE DINNER
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE...

"SINCE WE'VE STARTED SLEEPING TOGETHER, YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH A WOMAN EVEN ONCE"
IT'S ONLY BEEN HALF A YEAR THERE JUST HASN'T BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY
If something comes up, he'll be upset, but I'm tired of fighting
I GUESS I FEEL LIKE THIS IS SOME STRANGE TEMPORARY EXPERIENCE
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FEEL LIKE IMAGASE IS A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER PLANET
If you even mention another man I'll turn into a shrimp!
So
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT VERY WELL
I CAN ACCEPT IMAGASE, BUT
WILL I GO BACK EVENTUALLY?
SPEAKING OF THAT
I FEEL RELIEVED WHEN I LOOK AT A WOMAN'S BODY
AND I FEEL RELIEVED BY MY OWN RELIEF

SORRY. DID IT SPLASH ON YOU?
NO. I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION
SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE TEA CUP EARLIER.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'LL DRY
WHOA! THIS IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
UH
OH
SIX
EEEK!
AAGH!
splash
rattle

SHE SEEMS SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT
BUT SHE'S GOT SUCH A SEXY HAND-KERCHIEF
I'M SUR-PRISED
EXCUSE ME. DID YOU WANT SOME-THING?
HUH?
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME
OH, RIGHT!
WELL
OH
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WINE, OKAMURA-SAN?
UH, NOT REALLY. WHAT ABOUT IT?
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I'D LIKE TO GIVE A FRIEND A BOTTLE OF WINE FROM THE YEAR OF THEIR BIRTH AS A GIFT
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT STUFF LIKE VINTAGES
WELL, I HAVE FRIEND WHO KNOWS A LOT
OH!
IF TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER IS OKAY, I'LL GET HIM TO MAKE A LIST!
WHAT YEAR?
RED OR WHITE?
AND, UH ... IF YOU COULD TELL ME HOW MUCH YOU'RE WILLING TO SPEND?
OH
HM ...
I GUESS AROUND 50 OR 60 THOUSAND
NOTE: THAT'S $00 OR 600 U.S. DOLLARS
FIFTY!

HE TOOK ME OUT TO CELEBRATE MY PROMOTION
AND HE DOES ALL THE HOUSEWORK
blu—sh
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND MUST REALLY MEAN A LOT TO YOU
huh?
EVERYONE SAYS YOU DO THEY SAY THAT SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO HAS A GIRLFRIEND THAT HE'S ABSOLUTELY CRAZY ABOUT!
REALLY? BUT
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND
well, not exactly
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND
I can tell you.
WHAT ARE THESE WOMEN GOSSIPING ABOUT?!
I don't have a girl
Mark my note there!
IS THAT
RIGHT?

DIRECTOR YANAGI?
WHY IS HE OVER THERE?
DOES HE HAVE BUSINESS ON THIS FLOOR...?
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU REMIND ME YOURSELF? IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT.
Happy Birthday!

BLUSH
A SUR-PRISE.
THIS IS SOMETHING EXTRA.
I MADE DINNER RESER-VATIONS!
THIS ISN'T PEKING DUCK!
OH
THANK YOU
WHY DID YOU SPEND SO MUCH ON ME?
Well, he seems happy so I guess it's okay. Thank you, Okamura-san.
It's like he knows how much it cost.
AND?
IS THIS ALL?
HUH?
Smile
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GIVE ME A KISS?
Hurry
JUST KIDDING.
THANK YOU. I REALLY LIKE IT.
BUT
IF WE DRINK IT, IT'LL BE GONE
I'M NOT GOING TO OPEN IT IT WOULD BE A WASTE
HUH?
LET'S DRINK IT THAT'S WHAT WINE IS FOR

I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ONE NEXT YEAR.
HOW'S THAT?
OH I FORGOT TO BUY SOMETHING TO EAT WITH IT.
HAVE WE STILL GOT THAT PROSCIUTTO?
rummage
rummage
ZZZ ZZ

SENPAI ... IT'S TIME TO GET UP SOON.
IT'S LONELY BEING THE ONLY ONE AWAKE.
OKAY. ...
rustle
HEY, WHAT TIME ARE WE HAVING PEKING DUCK?
MM ...
TO-NIGHT
BUT WHAT TIME?
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
flop
KISS
ding dong

open
UM, EXCUSE ME—
What? What?
IS THIS WHERE SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO LIVES?
UH—

BOW!
OH, SORRY
TAMAKI OKAMURA
I'M SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO'S ASSISTANT AT WORK
YES
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
...
THE SECTION CHIEF LEFT SOME DOCUMENTS AT THE OFFICE
SO I BROUGHT THEM BY
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO BRING THEM HOME TO FINISH OVER THE WEEKEND
THAT'S VERY THOUGHTFUL THANKS
HE'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW. DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WAKE HIM UP?
NO, THAT'S
DO PROPER YOUNG LADIES VISIT THEIR BOSSES HOMES WITHOUT EVEN A WORD OF WARNING?
OH! OR.
MAYBE YOU'RE HIS GIRL-FRIEND?

SFX
BLUSH
NO, NO, I'M NOT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT.
I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.
SENPAI IS THE TYPE THAT WOMEN LIKE.
IN FACT
HONESTLY, I'M NOT!
OOTOMO-SAN TOLD ME HIMSELF "I DON'T HAVE A LOVER."
UM ...
WELL ...
?

UM
WILL YOU GIVE THIS TO SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO PLEASE?
GR
AB
HM ?
stomp
stomp
stomp
close
FLOP
yawn
Good Morning
WHAT'S THAT ?
AN EXPRESS DELIVERY?

Tamaki-chan?
Hm?
"TAMAKI-CHAN..."
...CAME TO DELIVER SOME DOCUMENTS THAT YOU LEFT AT WORK.
blink
TAMAKI OKAMURA?!
NO WAY!
SFX: SIT UP
WHAT DID SHE WANT?!
SHE LEFT
WAIT...
My underwear! My underwear!
AAGH! WHERE ARE MY UNDER-WEAR?
THEY'RE IN THE LAUNDRY
!!
I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!
NG
OK
THUD
THUD
AAARGH!
AAGH! MY HAIR IS A MESS!

OKAMURA-SAN!
close
PSSHhh...
vroom
I
SORRY

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL SPREAD RUMORS THAT YOU'RE GAY AROUND THE OFFICE?
I WAS PRETTY RUDE TO HER
WAS EMOTIONAL AND GOT A WEIRD ATTITUDE
I'M FEELING MORE AND MORE DEFEATED
I'll come up with a good excuse story later
SHE WAS SMILING WHEN SHE LEFT, SO DON'T WORRY
SHE'S NOT LIKE THAT
SHE'S JUST A WOMAN WHO WORKS IN MY OFFICE
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLU-SIONS
COME ON
AND EVEN YOU'VE NOTICED HER A LITTLE YOU DON'T FIND HER AS BAD AS YOU LET ON
BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN YOU

SINCE I'M...
NOT EVEN YOUR LOVER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY TO YOUR PLACE ON PURPOSE
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED HER OUT TODAY
BUT...
SHE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A COWORKER
...
QUIT GOING ON AND ON ABOUT THIS!
I LIKE YOU AND I'M HAVING DINNER WITH YOU

R-really?
SORRY
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LASHED OUT AT YOU...
...
I DON'T LOSE MY TEMPER LIKE THIS WITH WOMEN
I like it
IT'S OKAY
JUST NOW
YOU LOOKED COOL
SENPAI
WHY ARE YOU SO NICE TO ME?
...ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE MY LOVER AS COMPENSATION FOR MY FEELINGS?
...AFTER YOU GOT A TASTE OF BEING LOVED SO PASSIONATELY ...
OR ...
DO YOU LOVE ME?

EVENING
THE LATTER
IMAGASE
HONESTLY
THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION
I TRIED AS HARD AS I COULD
I PROBABLY CAN'T DO AS WELL AS GAY MAN, BUT...

IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME
BUT MAYBE THE KOALA WILL DIE
FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW
THEY'RE DOING AN EXPERIMENT TO SEE WHETHER A KOALA CAN SURVIVE ON OTHER LEAVES BESIDES EUCALYPTUS
"SHE'S DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN YOU."

WHY
IS SHE WITH OUR DIRECTOR?
A "FRIEND" WHO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT EXPENSIVE WINE—
I SEE
OH

EVEN THOUGH I SLEEP WITH A MAN WHEN I GO HOME
SUDDENLY, MY FEELINGS COOLED.
WAS MY IMAGE RUINED?
I'M A SELFISH MAN.
open
I'M HOME.
close

WELCOME HOME...
open
flop
SENPAI?
WHAT IS IT? MAYBE
YOU TOOK A BATH AND GOT READY WHILE YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME?
♥ Ready to go?
DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN? DID THINGS GO BADLY WITH TAMAKI-CHAN?
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON WITH HER.
SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND
REALLY?
SHE'S NOT WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE.
SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR
WITH OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

HM... I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED, TOO, BUT
WELL, OBVIOUSLY THE OLD MAN HAS A GOOD REPUTATION
AND SHE'S ATTRACTED TO OLDER MEN
...
NOT REALLY ...
DID THAT HURT YOUR FEELINGS?
creak
SO, YOUR FEELINGS WERE HURT AND YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.
SFX GRRR
THAT'S NICE
I'M JUST GOING TO WASH UP AND LIE DOWN. I WANT TO FUCK YOU LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!

IF YOU WANT SOME GUY TO SCREW YOU AND ALLEVIATE YOUR STRESS, WHY DON'T YOU GO PICK UP A STRANGER AT A BAR?

IMAGAGE
SFX STOMP
FOR A MOMENT, I'D REACHED MY LIMIT
SORRY
SORRY
I'M KIDDING
...
DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY AND GO TO ANY STRANGE PLACES.

PLEASE
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN RELY ON TO PROTECT MY HEART
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL GO BACK TO A WOMAN SO LET ME BE THE ONLY MAN INSIDE YOU...
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
JUST THINK ABOUT BEING HAPPY WITH A WOMAN
DON'T WORRY ABOUT TAMAKI-CHAN
IF I BECOME A NUISANCE I'LL TAKE THE HINT AND GO AWAY I WON'T BOTHER YOU
I BET SHE'LL GIVE UP HER FUTILE AFFAIR AND TRANSFER HER AFFECTION TO YOU
IF YOU CONTINUE TO BE NICE TO HER LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN SHE'LL COME TO YOU

I'M LIKE A MOTH THAT FLEW INTO YOUR WEB OF ITS OWN ACCORD
BUT YOU JUST GIVE ME SWEET NECTAR SO I WON'T DIE
I'M DREAMING OF THE DAY YOU'LL DEVOUR ME
EQUAL?
SO I WILL BE EQUAL TO YOU
THAT'S WHY I DO WHAT I CAN IN RETURN
YOU TREAT ME WELL
IS THE SPIDER EQUAL TO THE INSECT CAUGHT IN HIS WEB?
WHEN I'VE SEEN THIS FOR MYSELF
I CAN FINALLY BE FREE
AND, RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES, YOU DEVOUR HER WITH RELISH
THEN, ONE DAY, AN ADORABLE BUTTERFLY GETS CAUGHT IN YOUR WEB
IF THAT'S THE REAL REASON YOU WERE BEING NICE TO ME, THEN I'M BEYOND SAVING...!
IN FACT
THAT'S OKAY
BY THEN, I'LL BE FALLING APART BUT

I'M JUST PLAIN STUPID
IF YOU'RE NICE TO ME I JUST KEEP FALLING MORE AND MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT... MY LOVE FOR YOU NOW IS NOTHING LIKE THE BLIND LOVE I FELT AS A STUDENT
AS MY FEELINGS GROW STRONGER, I BECOME GREEDIER
MY THROAT KEEPS CONSTRICTING
YOU GOT USED TO IT EASILY, BUT—
—EVEN NOW, EVERY TIME I TOUCH YOU, MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO COLLAPSE UNDER THE STRAIN
I FEEL LIKE I'M VIOLATING AND DEFILING A BODY I SHOULDN'T HOLD
EVEN NOW...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CLOSE THIS DISTANCE BETWEEN US.

...WOULD END RIGHT NOW IF I STOPPED SAYING, "I WANT THIS"
THIS RELATIONSHIP

IMAGASE
I MEANT I WANT TO HAVE FEELINGS OF THE SAME WEIGHT AS YOURS
WHEN I SAID "EQUAL"
COME HERE
FATHER
WHILE I WAS LOOKING FOR A WOMAN WHO LOVES ME, I WOUND UP HERE
I TRIED TO TREAT WOMEN KINDLY LIKE YOU SAID

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
FATHER.
LIKE BEING CAUGHT BY A SPIDER WEB IN A DARK FOREST. IT WAS A MIST, LIKE
MAYBE IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY

ONE DAY, WILL THIS TOO BE BURIED IN MY MEMORY AS ONE OF THE MANY PASSING LOVE AFFAIRS THAT I HAD OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
AND THIS SHAMEFUL SEX THAT MAKES ME TREMBLE
CRASH
creak
creak
creak
MAYBE IT ISN'T IMAGASE WHO WANTS TO BE HELD AND BOUND

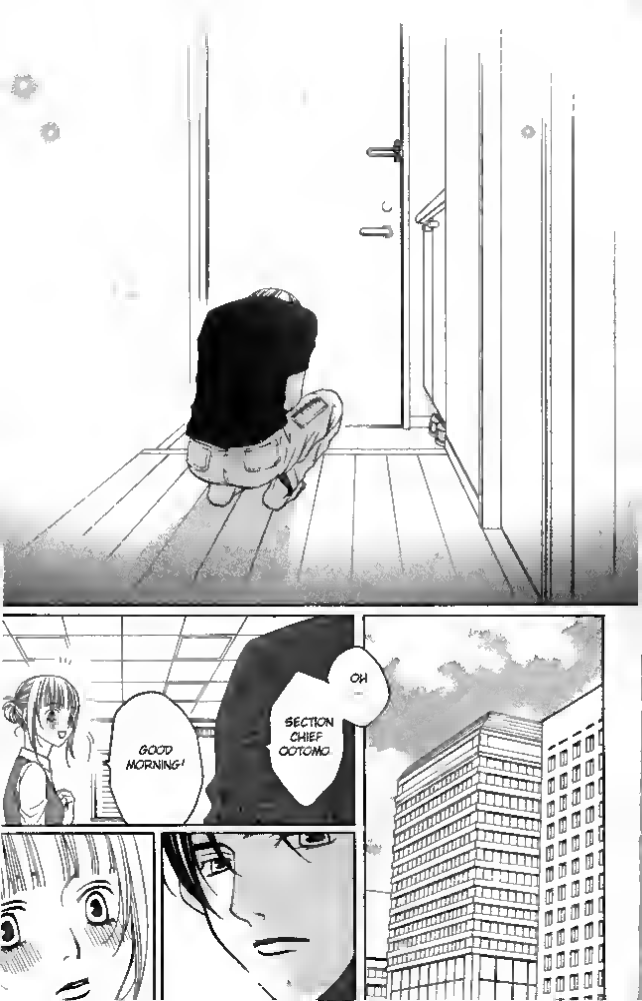
SHOULDN'T I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.

FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP?

YOU KNOW SENPAI
THAT CHINESE FOOD WE HAD THE OTHER DAY WAS PRETTY GOOD
YEAH. SO WAS THEIR CRAB AND LETTUCE FRIED RICE.
YE-AH.
THEIR STIR-FRIED BEEF WAS DELICIOUS.
YEAH. IT WAS NICE TO GO THERE AGAIN.
YEAH.
AND, OF COURSE THE FEKING DUCK, TOO.
YOU ACCEPT ME WITH MAXIMUM TOLERANCE.
I ENDURE YOUR WAVERING AND STRUGGLES.
WHEN SOMEONE SHARES YOUR TASTE IN FOOD ...
... HE USUALLY SHARES OTHER VALUES, TOO.
OUR PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY IS GREAT.
I'M STUBBORN.
YOU'RE NICE.

YOU AND I WILL DEFINITELY MAKE THIS WORK
JUST A LITTLE LONGER
KISS
WELL
HAVE A GOOD DAY

I'M OFF.
STEP
STEP
STEP
close


OH
SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO
GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING
IS SOMETHING WRONG, TAMAKI?
YEAH...
HE'S 100 TIMES COOLER THAN USUAL
MELANCHOLY BUTTERF...Y.* THE END

# The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

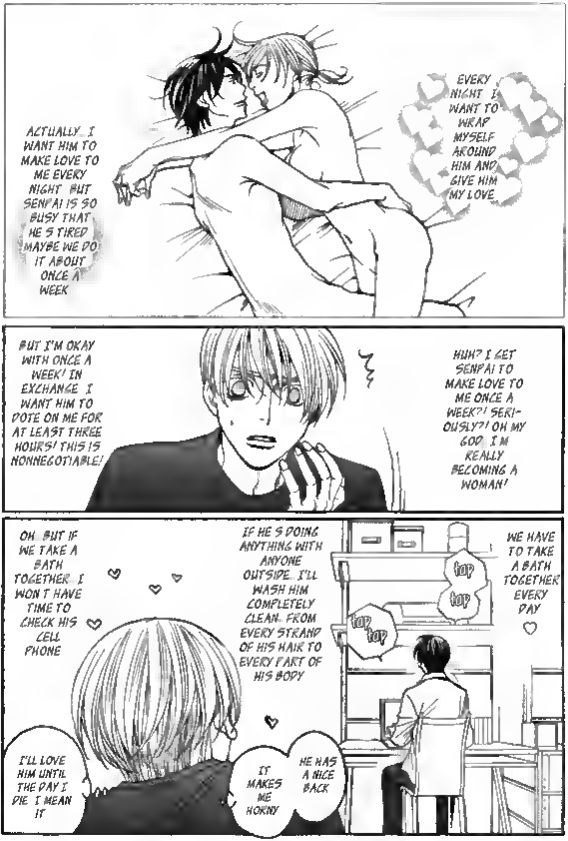
Setona Mizushiro

## Chapter One - Melancholy Butterfly

http://presencedear.com

top
top
top
top
top
IF I WERE A WOMAN, I'D BE AN ORDINARY HOUSEWIFE
THE BLACK CAT YAWNS
CHECKING INSIDE HIS PANTS
CHECKING INSIDE HIS DRAWERS
I'D SPEND HALF THE DAY CLEANING AND DOING LAUNDRY
EVERY DAY... I'D MAKE BREAKFAST, THEN SEND HIM OFF WITH A GOODBYE KISS
kiss
kiss
Too thick in the morning
HMPH
Yours have to be stupid to leave such a good man Chikako was a complete idiot
HEY, YOU CLEANED THE REFRIGERATOR! THANKS!
SENPAI WOULD NOTICE EVERYTHING I DO AND THAT WOULD MAKE IT ALL WORTH-WHILE

THE BLACK CAT YAWNS


ACTUALLY... I WANT HIM TO MAKE LOVE TO ME EVERY NIGHT. BUT SENPAI IS SO BUSY THAT HE'S TIRED. MAYBE WE DO IT ABOUT ONCE A WEEK
EVERY NIGHT I WANT TO WRAP MYSELF AROUND HIM AND GIVE HIM MY LOVE
BUT I'M OKAY WITH ONCE A WEEK! IN EXCHANGE I WANT HIM TO DOTE ON ME FOR AT LEAST THREE HOURS! THIS IS NONNEGOTIABLE!
HUH? I GET SENPAI TO MAKE LOVE TO ME ONCE A WEEK?! SERIOUSLY?! OH MY GOD. I'M REALLY BECOMING A WOMAN!
OH. BUT IF WE TAKE A BATH TOGETHER, I WON'T HAVE TIME TO CHECK HIS CELL PHONE
IF HE'S DOING ANYTHING WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE, I'LL WASH HIM COMPLETELY CLEAN. FROM EVERY STRAND OF HIS HAIR TO EVERY PART OF HIS BODY
WE HAVE TO TAKE A BATH TOGETHER EVERY DAY
tap tap tap tap
I'LL LOVE HIM UNTIL THE DAY I DIE. I MEAN IT
IT MAKES ME HORNY
HE HAS A NICE BACK

IF SHE TURNED OUT LIKE ME SHE MIGHT HAVE AN EVIL LOOK IN HER EYES SO IT WOULD BE NICE IF SHE WERE LIKE SENPAI
IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF OUR CHILD TURNED OUT GAY SO A GIRL WOULD BE NICE
THAT WON'T WORK. AS A FATHER I CAN'T ALLOW IT NO. IN THIS CASE I'M THE MOTHER RIGHT...?
NO WAIT! A GIRL WHO'S CUTE AND NICE TO EVERYONE LIKE SENPAI WHO'LL DO WHATEVER OTHERS WANT IN ORDER TO FEEL LOVED IS GONNA FIND HERSELF IN DEEP
NO MATTER HOW IT TURNS OUT, MY DAUGHTER WON'T HAVE A DECENT LIFE!
BUT IT WOULD BE REALLY HORRIBLE IF OUR DAUGHTER TURNED OUT LIKE ME! A WOMAN WITH MY OBSESSIVE STALKER TRAIT, CLINGING FOREVER TO A ONE-SIDED LOVE...? THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D EVER BE HAPPY!
Yaaa——aaa

yawn
It was interesting
OH I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A GRAND DELUSION
SIGH
OH MY EYES ARE TIRED
LATELY MY EYES HAVE BEEN GOING BAD ALL OF A SUDDEN
I BOUGHT SOME BLUEBERRY YOGHURT
Isn't it old age
DOES THAT WORK?
HEY!
YOU CLEANED THE REFRIGERATOR THANKS
OPEN
CLOSE
THE BLACK CAT YAWNS * THE END

# The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

Setona Mizushiro

## Chapter Two (extra) — The Black Cat Yawns

scanner: PRESENCEDEAR
translator: PRESENCEDEAR
editor: EXILAR
special thanks to ZL!

http://presencedear.com

# Owl

DO YOU HAVE EVERY-THING?
YEAH
YOU'VE GOT YOUR CELL PHONE?
YEAH
WE'RE HAVING DINNER AT HOME TONIGHT?
YEAH.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
.....

THANK YOU.
YOU POLISHED THEM FOR ME..
They're so shiny.
YEAH?
You're not a cute guy
MY SHOES...
I THOUGHT I WAS ON A ROLL..
DAMN.
NO?
...
HAVE A GOOD DAY.

rattle
rattle
rattle
I wish I didn't adapt so easily
IN THE BEGINNING I THOUGHT "THIS COULD NEVER HAPPEN." BUT NOW IT HAS
ARE WE LIKE HUSBAND AND WIFE?
ARE WE THE PERFECT GAY COUPLE?
rattle
rattle
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME IS THE GUARANTEE THAT I'M TRULY LOVED
I SUPPOSE IT VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON, BUT—
WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE?

NOW. INSTEAD OF SURREPTITIOUSLY WATCHING A WOMAN'S EXPRESSION, WONDERING WHEN SHE'LL CHANGE HER MIND AND WANT TO BREAK UP...
I'M HARASSED BY SOMEONE WHO FOLLOWS ME AROUND ALL DAY, BEGGING FOR LOVE.
I FEEL FAR MORE FULFILLED AND SECURE NOW
EVEN IF HE'S GAY...?
Yeah.
I love you.
Ex-wife, Chinako
rattle
rattle
DO YOU LOVE ME?
AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM. BUT
I FEEL AFFECTION FOR HIM
THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION
ISN'T IT EGOTISTICAL TO HOLD ON TO SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE THEY SATISFY MY NEED FOR LOVE?
I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS LOVE.
HONESTLY, IT'S ALL A LITTLE TOO EASY AND COMFORTABLE FOR ME.

I DON'T KNOW
NOT TO MENTION
HOW MUCH DOES A HOMOSEXUAL MAN LOVE ANOTHER MAN?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?
TAMAKI OKAMURA WORKS IN YOUR DEPART-MENT
SO
lovey-dovey
I WAS WONDERING WHY HE INVITED ME OUT TO LUNCH ALL OF SUDDEN
HE WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIS MISTRESS? HE'S A FOOL IN LOVE!
HER PRESENCE BRIGHTENS THE ROOM.
SHE'S ALWAYS GOT A SMILE ON HER FACE
SHE'S VERY KIND AND HARD WORKING
I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING
There's nothing to talk about, but
UH WELL

SHE'S VERY HELPFUL
I'M SURE SHE'LL MAKE SOMEONE A GOOD WIFE ONE DAY
YES, YES!
THAT'S TRUE. THAT'S TRUE.
ARE YOU SATISFIED, YOU OLD PERVERT?
THE TRUTH IS—
TAMAKI OKAMURA IS MY DAUGHTER
HUH?!
BUT YOUR LAST NAMES
WELL, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT

I HAVE A COMMON LAW WIFE
TAMAKI IS OUR DAUGHTER
SHE HAS TURNED OUT WELL THANKS TO HER MOTHER'S EXCELLENT CARE
I'M ASHAMED TO SAY SHE HAS A MUCH BETTER DISPOSITION THAN MY LEGITIMATE SONS
THAT SO?
IS
LET ME TELL YOU SHE DIDN'T USE HER CONNECTIONS TO GET THIS JOB!
SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME THAT SHE WAS APPLYING
SHE SAID "I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU, DADDY." ISN'T THAT CUTE?
YEAH
VERY CUTE
He's in doting parent mode now
IF YOU LIKE HER, THAT WILL MAKE THIS EASY.
HUH?!
OOTOMO-KUN.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH TAMAKI?

NO, NO, NO! SEE UH... I'M DIVORCED! I'M NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO SHOULD BE DATING RESPECTABLE YOUNG LADIES
IF YOUR MARRIAGE IS OVER, THEN WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THAT DOESN'T BOTHER SOMEONE LIKE ME
ha ha ha ha
TAMAKI TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT DATING ANYONE, RIGHT?
Great!
I don't believe it
OH... UH... WELL...
SHE REALLY LIKES YOU!
EVER SINCE TAMAKI MET YOU, SHE'S HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT YOU
WHEN I REALIZED THIS AS A FATHER, I WANTED TO GIVE HER A HELPING HAND
I THOUGHT YOU SHOWED A LOT OF PROMISE AT WORK. EVEN I THINK YOU'RE PERFECT!
UM, DIREC-TOR
NO, IT'S OKAY, OOTOMO-KUN
DON'T GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER. SPEAK DIRECTLY TO MY DAUGHTER

I'M SO SORRY SECTION CHIEF!
MY FATHER SAID SOME WEIRD THINGS
I'M REALLY SORRY PLEASE JUST FORGET IT
From Daddy I'm going to have a talk with Ootomo-kun
AAAAGH!
REALLY, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM!
HE'S GONNA HEAR IT FROM ME LATER!
HEY TAMAKI
DID YOU SAY IT ALREADY? DID YOU WAIT UNTIL I WAS GONE?
NO NO! I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! THIS IS ALL GETTING OUT OF HAND
WHAT?
HE SENT ME A TEXT MESSAGE EARLIER
I WAS SHOCKED!

You guys are so mean!
AAAGH!
AAAAGH...!
...TO GO DRINKING WITH US...
TAMAKI SAID I WANT OUR SECTION CHIEF
WHOA! IT'S IMAGASE
Has he got ESP...?
BUZZ BUZZ
WELL... I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T SAY NO
AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING ALONE IT'S JUST A BITE TO EAT...
I SHOULD CALL IMAGASE AND LET HIM KNOW I WON'T BE HOME FOR DINNER
SENPAI? I'M NEW... YOUR OFFICE RIGHT NOW...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU.
OH... SORRY. ACTUALLY, I'M GOING DRINKING WITH SOME PEOPLE FROM WORK...

bq
HUH?
-thump
I'LL COME, TOO
BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE A PARTY WITH ONE MAN AND TWO WOMEN
REALLY?
IMAGASE !
"NEAR" IS TOO NEAR
HUH? WHO'S THAT?
OH
HE'S SUPER COOL! INTRODUCE ME!

WOW!
YOU WORK FOR A DETECTIVE AGENCY IMAGASE-SAN?
YEAH.
I GO AFTER STALKERS AND CHEATING SPOUSES.
IF ANYTHING COMES UP, FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL.
探偵事務所
Imagase
Wataru
SORRY I WAS SO RUDE THE OTHER DAY
shake
shake
HUH?
I'D JUST WOKEN UP SO I WAS IN A BAD MOOD
OH THAT'S OKAY DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'M SORRY TOO I REALLY WASN'T THINKING
GIGGLE
IMAGASE-SAN DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
I'm sure you do
TENSION
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU'RE DATING
I'M NOT DATING ANYONE

HUH?
WOW. SO SHE'S THE "ICE-QUEEN" TYPE?
...I'M ALWAYS SAYING, I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, BUT THEY'RE JUST LIKE, "UH-HUH."
I'VE GOT SOMEONE THAT I'M ALWAYS PURSUING, BUT....
BA-THUMP
Are you okay?
shake shake shake shake shake
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE WOULDN'T WANT A GUY LIKE YOU FALLING ALL OVER THEM!
wa wa wa
YES!
?I ♥WONDER
BUT, IF YOU CAN SAY THAT, THEN SHE'S DEFINITELY JUST PUTTING UP A FRONT IN REALITY SHE'S MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU, RIGHT?
I GET THE FEELING YOU'D JUST TOSS A VERY CLINGY GIRL ASIDE
YOU'VE GOT THIS KINDA COOL IMAGE IMAGASE-SAN
I'M SUR-PRISED
HOW EROTIC!
squeal
YOU REALLY ARE IN LOVE AREN'T YOU?
You could say I'm ready to be killed
I'M EXPE-RIENCED IN CERTAIN THINGS
YOU MAY BE RIGHT
Oh, I want to hold them right now!
I'm sure of it
SHE JUST FEELS LIKE IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY ANYTHING BUT THE TRUTH IS HER BODY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU, IMAGASE-SAN
SHINDO
TTLE
RATTLE
SHINDO'S A MEASURE OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY 2. SHINDO 3. EARTHQUAKE IS RELATIVELY MILD
PEOPLE WILL FEEL IT AND OBJECTS ON SHELVES WILL RATTLE BUT IT'S NOT DANGEROUS.

I'VE REALIZED THAT WHEN YOU SAY "THAT PERSON IS AN EXCEPTION IN EVERY WAY" THEN YOU "LOVE THEM FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART"
I'VE NEVER BEEN INTERESTED IN BEING CHASED VERY FAR I GET BORED WITH IT EASILY AND YET NOW I'M DOING THE EXACT SAME THING MYSELF
YEAH ACTUALLY I AM THAT TYPE...
SO THE WEIGHT OF A STRONG ANCHOR KEEPS ME GROUNDED
I'M FLIGHTY
THAT'S NOT WHAT I THINK
OPPRESSIVE? ANNOYING?
I'M OPPRESSIVE
AND ANNOYING
I'm despised
ALL DAY LONG I CLING TO THEM LIKE A SQUID
sigh
I WANT THEM TO DO HORRIBLE THINGS TO JUST TO ME!
BUT THEY'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'S VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM
YOU'RE SO CUTE IMAGASE
She doesn't despise you!
I DON'T CARE IF I'M TATTERED AND TORN I WANT THEM TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT WITH ME
I WANT TO BELONG TO THEM
I WANT TO BE SPOKEN TO SELFISHLY AND IRRATIONALLY GIVEN ORDERS AND SCOLDED...
FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE HEAD OVER HEELS IN TRUE LOVE
IMAGASE -SAN
BUT THAT'S GREAT
WHEN HE TALKS LIKE THAT, I'M FILLED WITH THESE STRANGE, SADISTIC THOUGHTS...
Am I getting turned on?
HUH? WAS THAT A SERIOUS CONFESSION JUST NOW?
ha ha ha ha ha!
YOU'RE SUCH A MASOCHIST!
You're too funny Imagase-san!
shake
shake
That's just the alcohol
No wait Calm down

I'M THROWING MYSELF INTO MY FIRST AND LAST TRUE LOVE.
YEAH.
TAMAKI-CHAN HAS NO IDEA THAT HE'S HOLDING HER IN CHECK FOR SELFISH ENDS
IMAGASE IS REALLY CUTE
tension
Giggle
That's great!
THANKS I'LL DO MY BEST.
GOOD LUCK
glance
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
WELL
UH
OH, Y-YES.
SORRY. WELL, THE SAME...
EXCUSE ME
SURE
ANOTHER ONE OVER HERE PLEASE.

AS THE DIRECTOR SAID HER MOTHER RAISED HER WELL
SHE SHINES WITH SUCH PURITY
I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS STRANGE PREJUDICE THAT CHILDREN RAISED IN THOSE CONDITIONS WERE SCREWED UP, BUT...
HIS LOVER'S DAUGHTER, HUH?
HER UPBRINGING AND CALIBER AS A PERSON ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY I GET CARRIED AWAY AND CHEAT...
I don't forget to use birth control though.
AND THE DIRECTOR HIMSELF IS RESPONSIBLE HE DID HIS FATHERLY DUTY WELL I THINK SHE HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD
...MY BUSINESS TRIP STARTS TOMORROW... I WON'T BE BACK FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS
SO...
HUH? OH, SORRY WHAT?
ARE YOU LISTENING SENPAI?
I WONDER IF TAKUKI-CHAN WILL SCOLD HER FATHER?
IN MY IMAGINATION, THE SCENE IS CHARMING.
I'm sorry
I'm angry! You're so stupid, Daddy!
POW
?
I SUPPOSE SOMETIMES YOU'LL REVERT TO YOUR OLD WAYS AND WANT TO SLEEP WITH A WOMAN.
...IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHEAT ON ME, DO IT WHILE I'M GONE
SO...
TAKE CARE I'LL CALL YOU
I SEE

TAMAKI-CHAN IS MY DIRECTOR'S
I DON'T CARE! I DON'T WANT
TO HEAR YOU TALK ABOUT HER!
SFX: GRAB
NO... ACTUALLY I JUST FOUND OUT TODAY
OH
HFF
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT? JEEZ
BECAUSE YOUR MIND IS SOME-WHERE ELSE
AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT
THAT'S OKAY
I KNEW IT WHEN I INVITED MYSELF TO JOIN YOU.
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO ME TONIGHT. YOU WERE JUST LOOKING AT HER.
SFX: PULL
IMAGASE... I'M SORRY, BUT...

I WAS LISTENING
YOU'RE WRONG
UH
UH...
pant
NN
CHU
AH
GAH
CHU

SQUISH
SQUISH
IMAGASE ?
I'M JUST DOING WHAT I WANT
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS SENPAI
IMA GASE
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT JUST LEAVE IT TO ME
WAIT
I LOVE YOU, SENPAI
PLEASE
JUST THIS ONCE PUT IT INSIDE ME
AND IMAGINE I'M A WOMAN
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT YOU CAN CLOSE YOUR EYES
AH
IMAGASE
POKE
SEX

IMAGINE...
INSIDE

IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM BEING INSIDE A WOMAN
THIS FEELING
YEAH
ALL OF ME WAS TIGHTLY GRIPPED
I FELT
AH
UH
GAH
HARD
THE SENSATION OF SINKING INTO HIS FLESH
YEAH
SO MUCH PRESSURE
creak
SO
HARD
creak
SENPAI
creak
AH
A-AH
creak
NO
OH, NO
I KNOW ALL TOO WELL
I KNOW HOW IMAGAISE IS FEELING RIGHT NOW
I KNOW
AAH!
creak
GAH
AH
THIS...
...IS BAD.

AH
AAH
SFX THRUST
AH
AH
AH
AH
creak
AH
...!
creak
creak
creak
creak
creak
AH
...!
...!

I FUCKED HIM AS HARD AS I COULD.

OH MY GOD... I FUCKED HIM.

HE WANT'S WHITE AND GRAY TO AGREE.
IF YOU LOOK AT IT OBJECTIVELY THIS ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT!
Right? Right?
BLACK KYOUICHI
AGI-
TATE
There's nothing wrong with a man doing the man's part in the first place!
CALM DOWN! YOU ALREADY HAVE A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?!
HE CAN'T BELIEVE IT
WHAT HAVE I DONE?! I'VE REWRITTEN AN IMPORTANT PAGE OF MY LIFE!
WHITE KYOUICHI
AGI-
TATE
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT! UP TO NOW I COULD SAY "I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING IMAGASE IS JUST SCREWING ME" BUT THIS WASN'T LIKE THAT!
HIS EX-WIFE CHIKAKO-SAN DON'T WANT CHILDREN
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I HAD THE AUDACITY TO LET GO AND COME INSIDE SOMEONE WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?
SENSE OF CONQUEST
SENSE OF GUILT
SENSE OF EXCRETION
GREY KYOUICHI
AGI-
TATE
WELL, WHEN I SAW US JOINED TOGETHER IT MADE A BIG IMPACT ON ME.
stunned

ARE YOU REGRETTING IT?
NO, NO
I'M JUST GETTING MY THOUGHTS IN ORDER
Kind of an internal conference.
I'LL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
A GENTLEMAN SHOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HIS LOVER UNEASY AFTER SEX! THAT'S THE WORST THING A MAN CAN DO!
WHEN I
WAS IN COLLEGE
I WANTED TO BE YOUR CIGARETTE
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN
TH
I WANTED YOU TO PECK AND BITE AND TOY WITH ME
I GUESS THAT'S SILLY
I'M SURPRISED. YOU'RE LIKE AN INNOCENT GIRL
COME HERE.

THE INSTANT I HELD IMAGASE ALL KINDS OF FEELINGS WELLED UP IN MY HEART
I'M A SIMPLE MAN

YOU COULD SAY...
I FELT RESPONSIBLE

Oh really?
I CAN'T SAY THAT! IT'S EMBARRASSING!
SIT W
WAIT
DID YOU KNOW THE INS AND OUTS OF ANAL SEX?
FIRST OF ALL, EVEN IF I'D ASKED, YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HARD FOR A GUY?!
NO...
NO...

I DECIDED I WOULD ONLY DO IT WITH RELIABLE AND EXPERIENCED TOPS AFTER THAT.
TRAUMA!
THE FIRST TIME I WAS THE BOTTOM, I HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE AND I RUSHED TO THE PROCTOLOGIST IN TEARS!
PLUS, DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK, I'M VERY PICKY ABOUT TOPS.
You've had it rough...

I WAS FILLED WITH EMOTION
IF YOU WANTED ME TO FUCK YOU SO BADLY—
—YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER

PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN ON THE BOTTOM MAKE GOOD TOPS
HEHE I TRAINED YOU WELL EVEN IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. I'M VERY PLEASED
OH, SO YOU'VE JUST BEEN SCREWING ME FOR TRAINING PURPOSES?
Thanks to you I don't use a condom
I WAS JUST INDULGING MY DESIRE FOR YOUR BODY
BUT, AT THE SAME TIME I WAS HOPING SOMEDAY IF I DID IT ENOUGH, YOU WOULD DO THE SAME THING FOR ME
WITH A LITTLE TIME AND EFFORT IT WOULD ALL GO ACCORDING TO PLAN
YOU'RE SO EASY TO INFLUENCE

SENPAI...
PLEASE
EVEN IF I SAY "NO..."
DON'T STOP...!
Splash
!
NN
WE'RE DOING IT HERE?
YEAH
YOU'RE REALLY HARD, SENPAI
NO
PUT IT INSIDE ME PLEASE
NO
I CAN'T WAIT
NOT IN THE BATH-TUB...
I CAN'T MOVE

SNEAKING GLANCES AT HIS EXPRESSION, FEELING TORMENTED BY OBLIGATION...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT
NO MATTER HOW WILD MY DESIRES
NO MATTER HOW SAVAGE I BECOME—
EVEN IF I TURN INTO AN UNINHIBITED BEAST—
COME ON
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR

IMAGASE LOVES ME

DO I LOVE IMAGASE?
IS IT THIS SENSE OF TRUST?
IS LOVE THIS UNBEARABLE SWEETNESS?
IS THIS LOVE?
IF IMAGASE SAYS IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, THEN I GUESS IT'S NOT
SENPAI
IF IMAGASE FEELS LOVED THEN I GUESS THIS DESERVES TO BE CALLED LOVE
I CAN'T DECIDE
STOP
AH
AH
SFX THRUST
ST
AAH

IF I CAN'T SATISFY IMAGASE...
NO MATTER HOW INTENSE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PLEASANT EGO TRIP
THEN WHAT I'M FEELING
OH, GOOD EVENING...
WHAT?!
YES THIS IS OOTOMO

DIRECTOR YANAGIDA DIED UNEXPECTEDLY
I WAS NOTIFIED RIGHT AFTER IMAGASE LEFT ON HIS BUSINESS TRIP

SECTION CHIEF OOTOMO
!
YOUR FATHER
IT WAS SO SUDDEN
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I'M WEARING A LOT OF MAKEUP TODAY

I LOOK TERRIBLE
SO I TRIED TO HIDE IT, BUT...
...HAD SWOLLEN EYES FROM CRYING OVER THE DEATH OF COMPANY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF A LOWLY OFFICE WORKER...
HE WAS MY DADDY
HE WASN'T HOME VERY OFTEN, BUT HE CALLED ME ALL THE TIME
WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER ON MY BIRTHDAY
AND HE CAME TO THINGS LIKE "SPORTS DAY" AND INTERVIEWS
I WAS TWENTY WHEN I FOUND OUT...
...THAT MY PARENTS WEREN'T MARRIED AND DADDY HAD ANOTHER FAMILY, BUT...
...HE WAS MY DADDY, SO I DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THAT STUFF MATTERED.
BUT I WAS WRONG
DADDY...
...WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S FATHER

I TRULY UNDER-STAND
TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME
MY DADDY WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S FATHER SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME IN THIS FAMILY
HE TRULY LOVED YOU
FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART
HE CARED FOR YOU
TOLD ME JUST HOW MUCH
DIRECTOR YANAGIDA

SHAA...

open
SHAA
I JUST GOT BA
WELCOME HOME SENPAI!
SHAA
IT HARDLY SEEMS REAL
I JUST HAD LUNCH WITH HIM THE OTHER DAY
YOU WERE AT A FUNERAL?
OKAY
I'LL GET THIS DRY CLEANED
THANKS
—HAD A HEART ATTACK
OUR DIRECTOR
YEAH
MAIL TAMAKI OKAMURA
Thank you for keeping me company. You made me feel much better. I'm really sorry for crying like that. I'm so embarr--
MENU
BUZZ BUZZ
BUZZ BUZZ

I SEE.
I'll take a glucose one, then.
I TOOK ONE EARLIER.
close
HOW ABOUT A BATH?
IMAGINE?
close
SFX: GRAB
SFX: RING
INCOMING MAIL
INBOX
PLEASE ENTER YOUR PASSWORD
SFX: KICK

IMA-
GASE
I LEFT SOME BEER IN THE REFRI...
click
I'M SHOCKED
YOU USED BE SO OPEN WHEN DID YOU START LOCKING YOUR CELL PHONE?
I SEE YOU'VE GOT A GUILTY CONSCIENCE
TH
I TRIED
SEVERAL PASS-WORDS BUT...

BINGO!
... I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I ENTERED MY BIRTHDAY AND...
I WAS BORN ON JUNE 22
HONESTLY, IT HIT ME REALLY HARD...
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE FLATTERED?
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU CHOSE THAT PASSWORD?!
I WASN'T HIDING ANYTHING!
YOU HID HER MESSAGE FROM ME WITH MY OWN BIRTHDAY! HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES ME FEEL?

IF YOU READ HER MESSAGE THEN YOU KNOW
ISN'T IT NATURAL TO COMFORT SOMEONE WHEN HER FATHER DIES?!
YOU MUST HAVE EXCHANGED A PRETTY PASSIONATE EMBRACE
YOU'VE GOT MAKEUP ON YOUR SUIT
!!
SO TAMAKI-CHAN IS YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER?
FIGURES I HAD A FEELING SHE CAME FROM A SHELTERED BACK-GROUND
I'VE BEEN THWARTING YOUR CHANCES OF MARRYING INTO MONEY.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SUCH A TERRIBLE PEST.
CUT IT OUT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER!
DON'T GIVE ME ALL THIS BULLSHIT!
HOW COULD I KNOW?!
I'D SAY YOU KNOW HER PRETTY WELL, THOUGH!

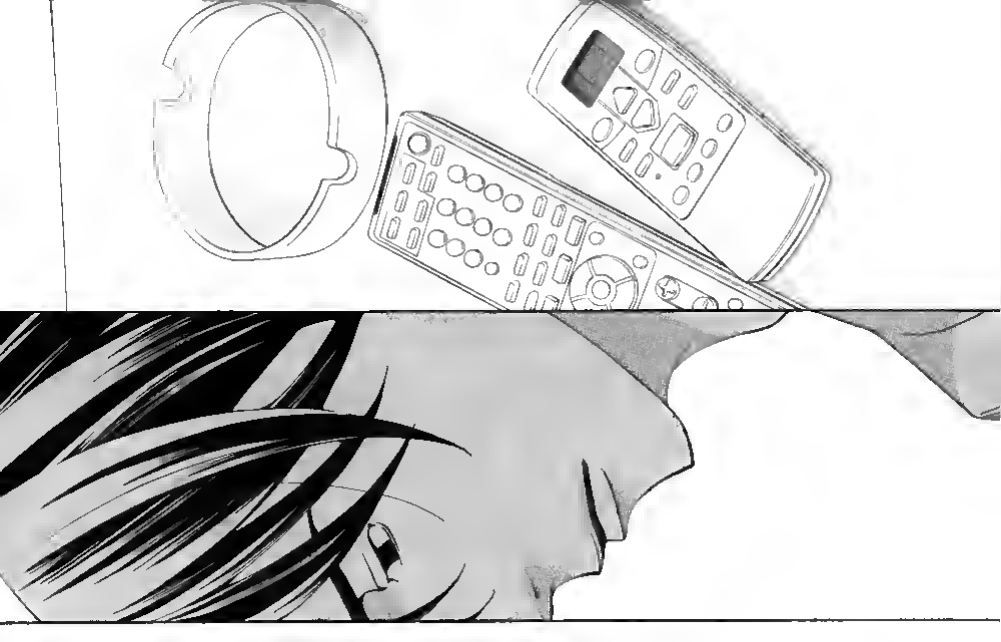
I WASN'T PLANNING TO KEEP IT AND CHERISH IT FOREVER...
I'LL DELETE HER MESSAGE WILL THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
FINE
DO YOU WANT TO DELETE THIS MESSAGE?
YES
NO
STOP IT!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
I'M.
IN YOUR WAY

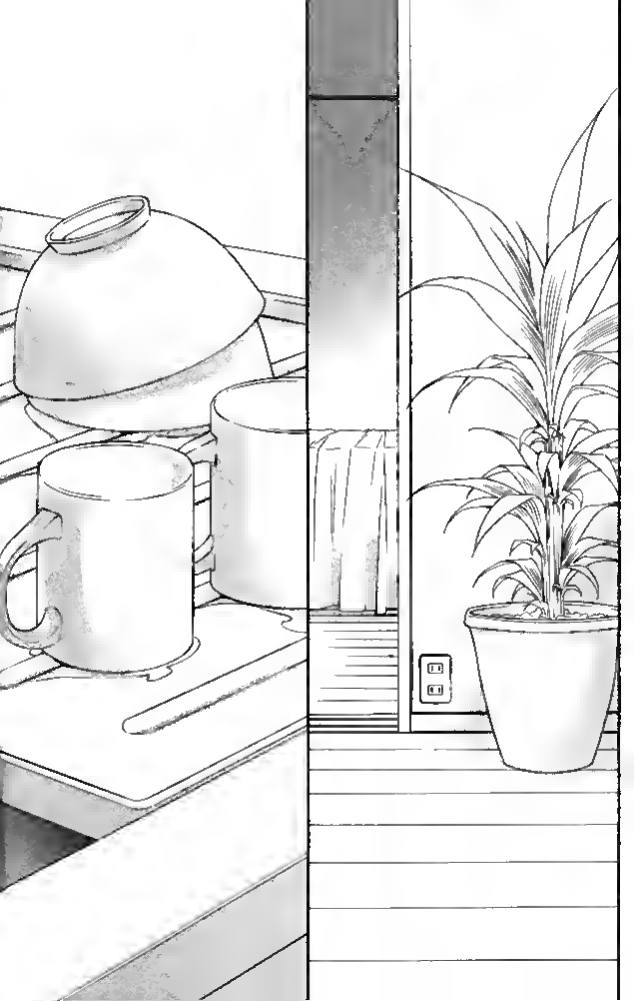
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
HONESTLY, SHE'S NOTHING TO ME! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
SHE MEANS A LOT TO YOU!
ISN'T IT JUST A MATTER OF TIME? WERE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP ME AROUND UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO END THIS?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M TELLING YOU, THE TIME IS NOW
YOU'VE REALLY DONE A LOT FOR ME
ALL MY WISHES HAVE COME TRUE
THAT'S ENOUGH
WE'VE COME TO A DEAD END!
WE CAN ONLY GO AS FAR AS WE CAN GO
AND WE'RE ALREADY THERE
THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE FOR US TO GO

I WANT TO GET ON WITH MY LIFE ASSURED THAT I HAVE "SOMEONE TO CALL MY OWN"
I'M ALMOST THIRTY
WHEN THAT HAPPENS I LOSE INTEREST
YOU AND I JUST DON'T WORK
AND I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU
YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME
LET'S END THIS ALREADY
IMAGASE
I—

I
YOU...
I...
YOU...
...HOLDING THIS RELATIONSHIP TOGETHER. I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND IT NOW.
YOU'VE HAD A MUCH HARDER TIME THAN I HAVE...
I'VE ONLY HAD GOOD EXPERIENCES BUT
YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING ALL ALONG
...

WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING?
HAVE I BEEN WAITING FOR IMAGASE TO ADMIT DEFEAT?
OR DID I THINK IT COULD MAKE HIM HAPPY?
I'VE BEEN DESPERATE...
...CONCEITED.
YEAH...
IF YOU SAY THIS ISN'T WORKING...
...THEN I GUESS IT ISN'T WORKING.
LET'S END IT.





YEAH
THIS ISN'T WORKING OUT
THIS IS THE END
I GUESS I DON'T LOVE IMAGASE AFTER ALL
MY FEELINGS COOLED
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SPOKEN SO CARELESSLY.
I WAS ONLY DOING THIS FOR MY OWN SATISFACTION.
SEMPAI...
"I KNEW IT."
STRANGELY, I FOUND MYSELF ACCEPTING IT.

CAN WE GO ON A DRIVE?
OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL BE COMPLETELY OVER IN THE MORNING
I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I'M NOT PROLONGING THIS INDEFINITELY
WHEN THE NEW DAY DAWNS YOU AND I WILL START LIVING SEPARATE LIVES
I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE BEACH
FOR THE LAST TIME
—LET'S WATCH THE SUN RISE TOGETHER

DON'T GIVE ME THAT APOLOGETIC LOOK.
IMAGASE CHATTERED ON AND ON, LIKE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE SILENCE
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
YOU AND I WERE GOING OUT, BUT WE WERE NEVER LOVERS.
WHEN I GOT IN THE CAR AND TURNED ON THE RADIO NOKKO'S "MERMAID" WAS PLAYING. I QUICKLY TURNED IT OFF
横浜
Yokohama
OH.
....SHOULD DATE THE SORT OF WOMAN WHO COMES TO YOUR HOUSE AND MAKES THE KIND OF MEAL THAT STEWS FOR A LONG TIME.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED
ACCORDING TO STATISTICS THAT KIND OF WOMAN STAYS WITH HER
I COULDN'T BEAR TO LISTEN TO THAT SONG RIGHT N
SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU AND CARES ABOUT YOU MORE.
....SHOULD FIND A MORE AFFECTIONATE TYPE NEXT.
...
AND...
...
YOU
...
And, say, of course.

HOW MUCH I'M LOVED ISN'T VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. IF I'M NOT REALLY INTO THE OTHER PERSON, IT'S JUST DEPRESSING.
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK THAT.
"SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME?"
...IT'S EASIER TO FIND MY OWN HAPPINESS
RATHER THAN RELYING ON SOMETHING AMBIGUOUS LIKE ANOTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS
NOT AT ALL
DOESN'T THAT JUST LEAD TO UNHAPPINESS?
AND IF HE CAN FIND A LITTLE SPACE IN HIS LIFE FOR ME I'M MORE THAN SATISFIED
WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER OR NOT I CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM.
I'M HIV NEGATIVE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
OH YEAH I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, SENPAI
THAT JUST SEEMS LONELY TO ME.
IF IT SEEMED POSSIBLE I WAS JUST PLANNING TO DO YOU ONCE THEN LEAVE YOU
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D BE ABLE TO SLEEP WITH YOU ANYWAY
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WASN'T SERIOUS BACK THEN
WHEN YOU GOT DIVORCED JUST BEFORE I INVADED YOUR HOUSE JUST SOME PROOF OF HOW SERIOUS I WAS
IF you'd told me, I'd have gone, too
WHEN DID YOU SNEAK OUT AND GET TESTED?
OH
I TOLD MYSELF THAT ALL THESE FEELINGS I HAD FOR YOU WERE THE DELUSIONS OF AN IMMATURE CHILD
I THOUGHT IT WAS PART OF GETTING OVER YOU AND GROWING UP
I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENJOY LOVE MORE BUT I JUST ENDED UP WITH A LOT OF SAD EXPERIENCES
AFTER YOU GRADUATED
I don't have the right to say anything since I didn't get tested myself
YOU MEAN IN THE BEGINNING WHEN YOU WERE BLACKMAILING ME, YOU HADN'T—

I THOUGHT YOU WERE LONG BEHIND ME I NEVER DREAMED THAT I'D RUN INTO YOU AGAIN
WHEN CHIKAKO-SAN SHOWED UP AND MENTIONED YOUR NAME MY KNEES STARTED TO TREMBLE
I THOUGHT IF I TAINTED MY FEELINGS FOR YOU MAYBE THEN YOU'D FADE AWAY AND BECOME PART OF MY FOOLISH PAST
MY LOVE FOR YOU HAD BEEN SPECIAL
I THOUGHT I'D CONQUER THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL
Ima gase! It's been a long t me!
How are you? You haven't changed a b t!
Is there some th ng
When you ment oned some th ng about a research company I was surprised
WHEN I SAW YOU IN PERSON MY HEART TREMPLED AND I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
BUT THAT PLAN WAS A COMPLETE FAILURE
MAYBE I WANTED AN APPETIZER WITHOUT FEELING RUSHED IT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY I'D BEEN WAITING FOR I WANTED TO TAKE MY TIME AND ENJOY IT
It's standard negotiat ons ♪
I SUPPOSE
When you th nk about t, left ng you k ss me back then was beg nn ng of everyth ng—
WAS THAT YOUR STRATEGY?
MAYBE, IN THE BEGINNING, IN ORDER TO GET A KISS, YOU ASKED FOR MY BODY FIRST, THEN PRETENDED TO COMPROMISE.
江ノ島
Enoshima
国道134号
ROUTE-13
鎌倉
467
32
BUT, EVENTUALLY, EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN?
YEAH. I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING.
Ah ha ha ha ha

IF I WERE A WOMAN
I COULD HAVE ENJOYED THIS LONGER
I'D GIVE BIRTH TO TWO OR THREE CHILDREN AND BE PRETTY ACTIVE IN THE PTA AND STUFF TOO
WE'D QUARREL AND GROW BORED WITH EACH OTHER AS WE GOT OLDER.
I COULD HAVE MET YOUR PARENTS OPENLY, TOO.
I WOULD HAVE STAKED MY CLAIM AND GOTTEN YOU TO MARRY ME.
I'D BE BY YOUR BEDSIDE WHEN YOU DIED, SAYING "I'M COMING SOON SO DON'T HAVE AN AFFAIR WITH AN ANGEL."
I'M GOING TO DIE FIRST?
I'D QUIT MY JOB AND SPEND ALL DAY TAKING CARE OF YOUR NEEDS AT HOME
BUT THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

I JUST NEEDED AN EXCUSE ANYTHING WOULD DO.
I WAS GOING TO BREAK UP WITH YOU ANYWAY.
I HAD GOOD TIMING DIDN'T I? I KEPT YOU FROM LOSING A GOOD WOMAN
I MIGHT NOT WIND UP WITH HER
YOU'VE GOT A POINT
MAYBE SOMEONE BETTER WILL COME ALONG AND NAB YOU
Because, lately you just seem cooler and cooler
IT'S NOT LIKE EVERY-THING ALWAYS WORKS OUT FOR ME
YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BE LOVED MORE THAN ANYTHING BUT
IN FACT YOU DON'T HAVE FAITH IN OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
I KNOW WHY THAT IS
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A LOW OPINION OF YOURSELF.
THAT'S WHY YOU CON-STANTLY WAVER
...TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW EACH PERSON WHO GETS CLOSE TO YOU FEELS

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU EXACTLY HOW GOOD IN THE END REMEMBER THIS
YOU'RE ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY
THAT'S NOT TRUE SENPAI
YOU ARE AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN A KIND PERSON
WHEN YOU FOUND OUT I WAS GAY YOU DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ME
WHETHER SOMEONE IS MALE OR FEMALE PRETTY OR UGLY
INSTEAD YOU WERE HONEST AND DIRECT WITH ME. AND THAT MADE ME VERY HAPPY
YOU'RE EQUALLY KIND TO EVERYONE
WHEN YOU WEAR LIGHT BLUE SHIRTS, IT MAKES MY HEAD SPIN
SIMPLE BUT NOBLE AND YOUR FAIR SKIN
BESIDES I LIKE YOUR FACE
FROM MY PERSPECTIVE WHEN PEOPLE ARE SENSITIVE, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE DRAWING A CLEAR LINE BETWEEN US
I WONDER IF I COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SENSITIVE
WELL, IN RETROSPECT
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW GRATEFUL I WAS FOR YOUR BLUNT ATTITUDE

So it comes down to that?
Even though I've given you so much pain, you're still not happy?
WELL, THERE'S MORE ...
... YOU'RE ONLY SAYING I'M A GOOD GUY BECAUSE I HAPPEN TO AGREE WITH YOUR SEXUAL TASTE.
I'm glad my body made you happy
I'M STARTING TO THINK ...
I WAS TOO HAPPY WHEN YOU WERE SO MANLY AND SADISTIC IN BED
BUT I GUESS I'LL REGRET GIVING UP YOUR BODY THE MOST
WHATEVER. TO THINK THAT GOD SHOULD FIND THE PERFECT MATCH FOR ME AND THEN MAKE HIM STRAIGHT
HEY, WAIT!
You were the one who started it!
IT'S NOT FAIR.
sigh
YOU'RE GOOD AT GAUGING PEOPLE'S FEELINGS AND YOU'RE SENSITIVE TO OTHERS
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INDECISIVE IN PRIVATE, YOU DO WELL AT WORK.
I FELT COMFORTABLE WHETHER WE WERE TALKING OR SILENT
YOU'RE A GOOD LISTENER AND EASY TO TALK TO
AND I WAS VERY HAPPY WHEN I SLEPT NEXT TO YOU.
WHEN WE ATE TOGETHER THE MEALS TASTED BETTER.
EVEN THE SMALLEST THINGS

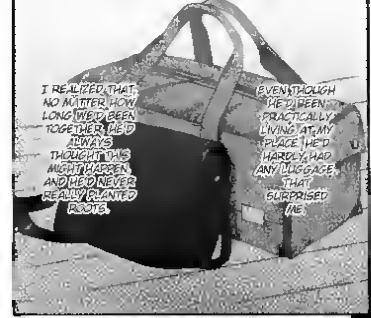
IT FELT GOOD JUST BEING WITH YOU
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE
YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR SO LONG NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WILL YOU DRIVE ON THE WAY HOME?
IF I DRIVE WE MIGHT GET INTO A WRECK

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US ISN'T A BIG DEAL.
YOU HAD A SHORT DREAM...
...IN THE DARKEST HOUR OF YOUR LIFE.
WHEN DAWN COMES, YOU'LL BE LIVING IN YOUR WORLD AGAIN
THE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT WILL GO AWAY
THE GAME HAS LOST ITS THRILL.
I'LL JUST GO BACK TO THE DARK FOREST.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
THE SUN IS COMING UP
YOU ....
... SAY SOMETHING, TOO, SENPAI.

SAY SOMETHING
I'M TRULY...
I'M SORRY
...
...THANKFUL...

YEAH...
I REALLY...

...LOVED YOU.


I REALIZED THAT NO MATTER HOW LONG WE'D BEEN TOGETHER, HE'D ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, AND HE'D NEVER REALLY PLANTED ROOTS.
EVEN THOUGH HE'D BEEN PRACTICALLY LIVING AT MY PLACE, HE'D HARDLY HAD ANY LUGGAGE. THAT SURPRISED ME.

...WE DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD TO EACH OTHER ON THE WAY HOME.

UNLIKE THE OUR JOURNEY THERE.

NOW I KNOW.

IMAGASE HAD LAUGHED IT OFF AS JOKE, HAD HE BEEN PREDICTING THE FUTURE?

"YOU'RE JUST WASTING MONEY ON RENT." I'D SAID, SUGGESTING IN A ROUND-ABOUT WAY THAT WE LIVE TOGETHER.

COME TO THINK OF IT, IMAGASE HAD NEVER VACATED HIS OWN APARTMENT.

THUS IMAGASE

— BECAME A THING OF THE PAST IN NO TIME AT ALL

WHEN WE GOT TO MY APARTMENT, IMAGASE QUICKLY GOT HIS STUFF TOGETHER.

HE SAID A SHORT GOODBYE AND LEFT.

カチ-ン
カタン
POKING HOLES IN HAPPINESS MAKES YOU UNHAPPY
SFX: RATTLE
カチ-ン
カタ-ン
I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW
I COULDN'T BEAR EYES SHINING WITH INTEREST WHILE IMAGINING THIS AND THAT
OR, STRANGELY KINDNESS
I COULDN'T BEAR THE SCORN, AMUSEMENT ROMANTICIZED NOTIONS...
I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IMAGASE
NOBODY UNDERSTANDS WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH
IMAGASE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
BUT... WHILE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE... ...WHEN IMAGASE WAS IN MY LIFE WAS THERE EVEN ONE THING THAT MADE ME UNHAPPY?
IN REALITY HOW HAPPY WAS I?
EVERY DAY AMIDST A MORASS OF DOUBTS...

AND I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU.
YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME

step
step
step
step
DON'T STOP
EVEN IF I SAY "NO"
OOTOMO-SAN
GOOD MORNING...
I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY
MY MOM TOLD ME TO GET A HOLD OF MYSELF AFTER THAT.
SHE'S GRIEVING, BUT I REALLY...

I BELIEVE THEY HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH.
I'M SURE THEY HAD ENOUGH OF ME.
I
MADE THEM SAY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR...
...AND I LITTERLY SAVORED THOSE GOOD FEELINGS...
BUT IN THE END I COULDN'T MAKE THEM MINE.
OOTOMO-SAN ! WHAT'S WRONG...?
I BROKE UP WITH SOMEONE I'VE BEEN SEEING...
I COULDN'T SAY "I AM GOOD FOR YOU."
I WAS A COWARD
I TOSSED THEM ASIDE
I DIDN'T DO WHAT I KNEW IN MY HEART

I DON'T DESERVE KINDNESS FROM A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU!!
COWARDS LIKE ME
SHOULD LIVE THEIR LIVES ALONE
BANG

I'M GLAD TO KNOW IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...
WITH THE PERSON YOU WERE SEEING
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE FEELING SAD INSIDE, I'M PUMPING MY FIST IN THE AIR!
THAT'S WHAT I'M REALLY THINKING
CAN I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BAD SITUATION AND SLIDE INTO THE VACANT SPOT BESIDE YOU!?
I'M NOT A NICE GIRL!
I'M A COWARD TOO

WHY IS THE WORLD SO BRIGHT?
IF THERE WERE AN EMPTY CAN AROUND HERE, I'D KICK IT
SHE WAS THERE.
IF I HAD A GLASS, I'D SMASH IT

OOTOMO-SAN
DO YOU SMOKE?
EVEN IF THEY'RE GONE...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN FORGET
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS SHE?
A WOMAN WHO SMOKES
I GET THE FEELING SHE WAS COOL AND MATURE
AND YET INEXPECTEDLY LONELY
NO
MY PARTNER LEFT THEM
THEY'RE GONE AND THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT
YOU LOVED HER
SHE WAS...
SOMEONE SPECIAL

I LOVED THEM

PLEASE MAKE THAT MAN HAPPY

IF YOU REALLY EXIST.

GOD

MY CHERISHED

...ONE AND ONLY MAN...

PLEASE...

Owl End

# The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

Flower Comics, 2009
Originally published by Mobile Flower, December 15, 2007 - February 5, 2008

## Setona Mizushiro

### Chapter Three - Owl

scanner: presencedear
translator presencedear
editor TXILAR
additional translation & translation assistance
sandyroo & Reppu

http://presencedear.com

copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro

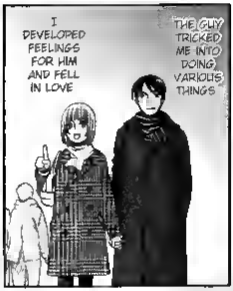
THE TEXTURE OF MY HAIR HAS IMPROVED A LOT RECENTLY. DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH. I GUESS SO.
I CHANGED HAIR SALONS IN THE FALL.
I THINK THEY DO A REALLY GOOD JOB.
MY PREVIOUS HAIRDRESSER WAS GOOD, TOO, BUT...
...I ASKED HIM TO CUT IT SHORT AND HE REFUSED TO DO IT.
OH, THIS DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU.
Clothes and hair are stuff...
Hmm
NO, NO!
YOU'RE THINKING "I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS STUFF!"
THAT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO LOOK INTERESTED.
Men don't have much to say about it.
How mean!
ring ring
ring ring
ring ring
WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING.
I PRETENDED TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL MAN.
ONCE
The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

I LET MYSELF GET CARRIED AWAY
FOR SOME REASON I STARTED TO THINK MAYBE IT'S ENOUGH TO BE LOVED LIKE THAT
THE MAN I WAS SEEING TOLD ME THAT HE REALLY, REALLY LOVED ME.

A REAL HOMOSEXUAL MAN WOULD PROBABLY LAUGH WITH SCORN AND SAY "THAT'S NOT LOVE"
I LOVE STING RAYS!
YEAH IT IS
IS IT SMILING?

I BELIEVE IT WAS LOVE


I DEVELOPED FEELINGS FOR HIM AND FELL IN LOVE
THE GUY TRICKED ME INTO DOING VARIOUS THINGS

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THOSE DAYS WERE SPECIAL TO ME
BUT I DON'T CARE IF NO ONE UNDER-STANDS

NEITHER BEAUTIFUL NOR UGLY
JUST A TIME IN MY PAST THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME
A WHITE ONE
THE BEGINNING OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH TAMAKI WAS HELL
BUT GRADUALLY WE WORKED THINGS OUT
EVEN THOUGH I BEHAVED HORRIBLY SHE ACCEPTED ME
HER PURITY REMAINED CONSTANT
COME TO THINK OF IT, EVEN WHEN SHE FOUND OUT THAT HER OWN FATHER HAD ANOTHER FAMILY SHE NEVER LOST THE GOODNESS IN HER HEART
MAYBE MY FOOLISH, IMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR WASN'T A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR SOMEONE LIKE HER
It's not like a st ngray
It's got a beak
It's so cute
A beak?

IF NOT...
THEN THE DEVOTION HE SHOWED ME WAS IN VAIN
MAYBE I KNOW A LOT MORE NOW THAN I DID BEFORE
HOW SHOULD I LOVE SOMEONE SO ADORABLE?
AND THE PRESENT DAYS PILE UP ON TOP OF IT
LIKE A LAYER OF FIRM GROUND
SURELY, HE HAS BECOME AS PART OF ME NOW...
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EX

I'M JUST GUESSING BUT...
I THINK YOU AND YOUR EX WERE PASSIONATELY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER, KYOUICHI-SAN
SO WHY?
WHAT ENDED IT?
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT
NO IT'S OKAY
IT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW
SO WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?
WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT HER?
WHAT WAS MY EX LIKE?
WELL
CLINGY, JEALOUS, SNEAKY
ONE MINUTE CALM AND COMPOSED THE NEXT, IRRATIONAL AND HYSTERICAL OVER THE STUPIDEST THINGS
COME TO THINK OF IT, PRETTY ANNOYING
YOU LIKED THAT?
YEAH
WELL, ACTUALLY, THOSE THINGS WERE CUTE

THEY WERE SPECIAL TO ME
MY EX WAS ALL WOUND UP LIKE A SPINNING TOP BUT I WAS SURPRISINGLY COMFORTABLE
I CAN TELL THAT YOU LOVED HER A LOT
YOU CAN CALL SOMEONE "BEAUTIFUL" OR "KIND" EVEN IF YOU DON'T LOVE HER, BUT
...BUT YOU CAN'T SAY SOMEONE IS SPECIAL TO YOU UNLESS YOU'RE IN LOVE
BUT YOU KNOW
...WHAT I PROBABLY LIKED MOST WAS BEING LOVED SO MUCH MYSELF
IT WAS UNFAIR OF ME
HAHA
YOU'RE SO HONEST

I WAS TOLD "YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME" AND EVERYTHING JUST CAME TO AN END
WHAT A BUNCH OF BULL...!
AT THE TIME I THOUGHT I COULD SMOOTH THINGS OVER
PREVIOUSLY WHENEVER MY EX GOT ANGRY, I JUST DID WHATEVER WAS WANTED OF ME
I WAS FORGIVEN, AND SOMEHOW WE GOT PAST IT. IT WAS A CYCLE
BUT...
...MY EX WAS SUFFERING
HONESTLY
...I TRIED HARD.
I CARED AS MUCH AS I COULD. BUT...
...IN THE END, NO MATTER WHAT I DID, OUR FEELINGS WEREN'T EQUAL.

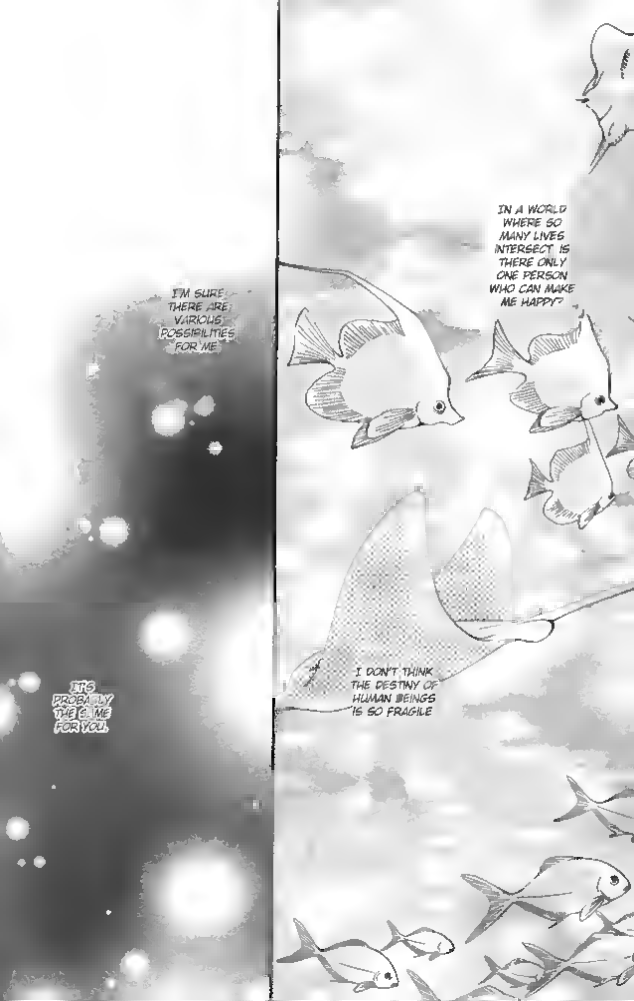
I GUESS THAT'S MY ONLY REGRET.
I SHOULD HAVE ENDED IT SOONER.
I WAS HAPPY, BUT...
...I DIDN'T SMOOTH THINGS OVER OR TRY TO HOLD ON ANYMORE.
AND SO...
SHE LOVED YOU TOO MUCH
YOU WEREN'T BAD FOR HER, KYOUICHI-SAN
...YOU CAN'T HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER AND YOU FALL APART.
WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE TOO MUCH
FOR SOME REASON, I THINK I UNDER-STAND

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU SEE HER AGAIN?
I'M MAKING A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SOMEONE I'VE NEVER MET.
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
I INSIST
NO THAT'S NOT IT
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE UNSURE?
HA HA
HONESTLY I DON'T WANT TO
WHY?
WHY?
I DON'T WANT TO.
HUH?
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HER
I--
DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS YOUR EX

AND...
...I'LL NEVER SAY "YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME."
POP UP
I'VE LEARNED A LOT.
I'LL BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOVE YOU TOO MUCH. ♡
EVEN IF I'M MOMENTARILY IRRITATED OR PLAYING GAMES...
IF I SAY THAT, IT WILL BE OVER.
KYOUICHI-SAN...
UH...
NEXT WEEK
...OR THE WEEK AFTER...
SOME TIME LATER ON
YEAH...

SORRY.
...I'D LIKE YOU...
...TO MEET MY MOTHER.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT.

I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR MOTHER SOMETIME TAMAKI
CAN I?
YES
IF SO
IS THERE ONLY ONE PERSON?
IS THERE SOMEONE DESTINED FOR ME?


I'M SURE THERE ARE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR ME
IT'S PROBABLY THERE FOR YOU.
IN A WORLD WHERE SO MANY LIVES INTERSECT, IS THERE ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN MAKE ME HAPPY?
I DON'T THINK THE DESTINY OF HUMAN BEINGS IS SO FRAGILE

# The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

I NEED YOU!
DON'T CALL ME OLD!
YOU'RE GETTING OLD.
AREN'T YOU TIRED?
BUT YOU'VE LOOKED TIRED
EVER SINCE THAT DAY HALF A YEAR AGO...
THIS WHOLE TIME...

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO AT WORK
YOU MAKE DECISIONS AND SWITCH GEARS QUICKLY AT THE OFFICE OLD MAN ♡
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN OLD FART!
WOUNDS HEAL MORE SLOWLY WHEN YOU GET OLDER
ISN'T IT THE SAME?
AND LOVE?
— THERE'S NOTHING LEFT
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
I HARDLY EVER TAKE PHOTOS EVEN WITH MY CELL PHONE
YOU KNOW, I DON'T
DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OF HER?
I WANT TO SEE YOUR EX
ABOUT THE SCENES I ONCE SAW —
I SEE
IT WOULD BE NICE IF I COULD TELL YOU SOMEDAY —

I GET THE FEELING YOU'LL JUST LAUGH AND LET IT GO
IF I TELL YOU
—I'M SURE YOU'LL SAY "THESE THINGS HAPPEN."
AND THEN, AT THAT MOMENT...
...ALL OF THIS WILL FINALLY DISSOLVE INTO THE SEA OF TIME AND DISAPPEAR...
YEAH
—LIKE PAPER LANTERNS FLOATING DOWN A RIVER—
PROBABLY...

ring ring
ring ring
ring ring ring
SET DOWN
ring ring ring
ring ring ring
SHOULDN'T YOU ANSWER THAT?
DO YOU WANT ME LEAVE TO ROOM?
NO, IT'S OKAY
ring
ACTUALLY UM.
LATELY
... I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT FROM CALLS FROM SOMEONE WITH AN UNLISTED NUMBER. WHEN I PICK UP, THERE'S NOTHING BUT SILENCE ON THE OTHER END.
AND, OCCASIONALLY
SOMEONE HAS PUT SOME STRANGE THINGS IN MY MAILBOX
WHAT?! YOU MEAN
YOU'VE GOT A STALKER?

SOMETIMES, I GET THE FEELING I'M BEING FOLLOWED IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
I THINK SO.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?
ABOUT TWO MONTHS....
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET SUSPICIOUS KYOUICHI-SAN
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK I WAS MIXED UP WITH SOME STRANGE MAN
I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT IS
I WOULDN'T THINK THAT.
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL THE POLICE?
I DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY'D RESPOND TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
BUT IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS
I THOUGHT, IF I WAIT UNTIL SOME-THING HAPPENS IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE
SO
HE GAVE ME HIS BUSINESS CARD SO IT WAS THE FIRST THING THAT SPRANG TO MIND...
I WENT TO TALK TO IMAGASE-SAN.

SO, NOW, IMAGASE-SAN'S AGENCY IS KEEPING AN EYE ON ME.
AFTER WE TALKED, HE DECIDED TO TAKE THE CASE.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU
UH
I FEEL BETTER LEAVING IT TO PROFESSIONALS RATHER THAN AN AMATEUR LIKE ME. I MIGHT DO SOMETHING WRONG AND PROVOKE THE GUY
I THINK YOU DID THE RIGHT THING
NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, TAMAKI
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED
I'M SORRY

gomyh
IS HE DOING OKAY?
IMAGASE
SO LIA—
'SE 'KAY—?
PARDON?
gasp
HE'S VERY SENSITIVE AND KIND AND FRIENDLY
He's always so cool and composed
YES
HE'S BEEN VERY NICE TO ME
IMAGASE ASKED ME IF YOU WERE DOING OKAY TOO
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER RECENTLY?
WELL YOU KNOW
WE'RE BOTH VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW
IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT UNTIL THIS MATTER WITH THE STALKER IS RESOLVED I'M GOING TO WORRY
Don't be silly
SORRY
ARE YOU NEGLECTING YOUR FRIENDS BECAUSE OF ME?
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GO DRINKING WITH THE GUYS, OR INVITE THEM OVER ONCE IN A WHILE
YOU WERE THAT CLOSE!!
IMAGASE

I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING WELL.
IF YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH A GOOD GUY WHO MAKES YOU HAPPY, THEN I'M SATISFIED
LIVING A NORMAL LIFE
EATING EVERY DAY
IF YOU'RE WORKING
THEN I'M SATISFIED
I DON'T REALLY CARE.
HE'S A TOP, BUT HE CAN'T BE ALONE.
YEAH, HE PROBABLY IS.
IS HE SEEING SOMEONE?
I WONDER...
I'VE GOT THESE FEELINGS.
THAT REALLY...
...DOESN'T MATTER.
WELL...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER.
HONESTLY...

IT'S COLD TODAY
IMAGASE...
I WANT TO STROKE YOUR HAIR

A FOOL...
DOES THINGS IN HALF MEASURES.
I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS I COULD HAVE LOVED YOU MORE
IF I WERE A HOMOSEXUAL MAN.
MORE DEEPLY THAN I CAN EVEN IMAGINE...
MORE INTENSELY...
SO DEEPLY...
KYOUICHI-SAN?
I'M SORRY IT TOOK ALL DAY
THE BEEF STEW NEEDS TO BOIL FOR HALF AN HOUR AND THEN IT WILL BE READY

RATTLE
OH!
KYOUICHI SAN

EXCEL CAFE
GOOD JOB TODAY. I'LL BE THERE SOON
OH, I'VE JUST SPOTTED HIM

DID YOU FIND OUT WHO HE IS?
YES
HIS NAME IS KEIJI OKAZAKI HE'S A HAIRDRESSER WHO USED TO WORK AT A SALON IN KAMIMEGURO CALLED "BEYOND" HE QUIT SOME TIME LAST MONTH
NOW HE'S UNEMPLOYED
"BEYOND" IN KAMIMEGURO HUH?
I'LL CHECK WITH OUR CLIENT AND SEE IF SHE HAS HEARD OF IT
ALL WE KNOW IS HE'S BEEN LOITERING IN FRONT OF THE CLIENT'S APARTMENT
DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT
OH, HE'S LEAVING
MY TURN TO FOLLOW HIM
WAIT!

HOSHIKAWA GYNECOLOGY CLINIC
予約制 TEL 03(＝＝＝)＝＝＝＝
IMAGASE-SAN?
I THINK HE'S ABOUT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE CLIENT
IMAGASE-SAN
GASP

ring ring ring ring
YES
OH, IMAGASE-SAN HELLO
TAMAKI-CHAN
DO YOU KNOW A HAIR SALON IN KANIMEBUKO CALLED "BEHOND?"
UH, YES I USED TO GO THERE
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN A LONG TIME
TAMAKI-CHAN
JUST ACT NATURAL AND GO BACK TO THE MAIN STREET
HUH?
GO BACK TO A PLACE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE
HUH?
HELLO?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TAMAKI-CHAN?
TAMAKI-CHAN!

WHY DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD AT ALL.
TAMAKI-CHAN!
IT LOOKS BETTER LONG

RIGHT!
CATCH HIM!
run
run
run
rattle
rattle
rattle
TAMAKI-CHAN!
TAMAKI-CHAN!
DR
OP

ba-
thump
ba-
thump
BA-
THUMP

step
step

SECTION CHIEF!
NOGAMI-SAN!
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T CHECK MY ANSWERING MACHINE SOONER
HOW'S TAMAKI-CHAN?
SHE'S OKAY... SHE MANAGED TO AVOID ANY SERIOUS INJURIES
A POLICEMAN WAS HERE ASKING QUESTIONS... BUT HE JUST LEFT.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME. I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH TAMAKI'S MOTHER.
OPEN
TAMAKI...!
KYOUICHI-SAN
YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL OF THIS...
I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
I HIT MY HEAD AND GOT A FEW BUMPS AND SCRAPES IT LOOKS WORSE THAN IT IS I'M SO EMBARRASSED
I'M FINE
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR APOLOGIES! THIS IS
I FEEL LIKE WHY AM I HERE?
BUT IT HASN'T REALLY HIT ME YET..
I'M SORRY
HE WAS MY HAIR-DRESSER AT MY OLD HAIR SALON
IT SEEMS HE CAUGHT THE GUY WHO WAS STALKING ME
IMAGASE-SAN RUSHED TO MY SIDE
WELL THESE THINGS HAPPEN
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT IT'S SHOCKING BUT

I'M REALLY GLAD IMAGASE-SAN WAS THERE
BUT I WASN'T CAREFUL IT SEEMS THE GUY FOUND OUT I WAS GOING TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY AND AMBUSHED ME
IMAGASE-SAN TOLD ME TO WATCH HOW I DISPOSED OF NOTES AND PERSONAL INFORMATION
close

SENPAI...
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

I AM TRULY GRATEFUL..
YOU SAVED TAKAKI.
I'M SORRY...
YOU'RE WRONG.
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE?
SHE GOT AWAY WITH MINOR INJURIES. SHE'S LUCKY IT WASN'T WORSE.
I'M SORRY.
IMAGASE ?

I FOUND OUT LATER, SHE'D JUST GONE THERE...
...FOR A ROUTINE CHECK UP.
BUT I...
YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS PREGNANT?
WHEN SHE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AND BLACKED OUT...
I JUST STOOD THERE, LOOKING DOWN AT HER....
MY MIND WENT BLANK. I COULDN'T MOVE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I WAS THINKING
"—I SHOULD DO SOMETHING" I
FORGET IT—
THERE WASN'T A CHILD NO LIVES WERE LOST
NOTHING SERIOUS HAPPENED TO HER
IT'S OVER
YOU CAN SAY THAT AFTER THE FACT
IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT—
I CAN ONLY RESPOND AFTER THE FACT
FORGET IT—
FORGET IT—
——

ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY HER?
MAYBE
I MAY BE NOTHING TO YOU, SENPAI, BUT AFTER WE BROKE UP
PHYSICALLY, I COULDN'T ACCEPT ANOTHER MAN
INTELLECTUALLY, I THOUGHT I'D FIND SOMEONE ELSE RIGHT AWAY. BUT
BECAUSE YOU

YOU MADE LOVE TO ME
IT DOESN'T MATTER
REALLY
I'M SHOCKED
I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU I HAVEN'T MOVED ON
I'M SICK OF THIS
SINCE I BROKE UP WITH YOU HALF YEAR AGO...
I'VE BEEN DOING EVERY-THING RIGHT

I WENT OUT AND SOCIALIZED SO I WOULDN'T BE ALONE
I WORKED HARDER THAN EVER
I DECIDED I'D FORGET YOU THIS TIME
I KEPT MYSELF BUSY SO I WOULDN'T THINK ABOUT YOU...
WHEN I COULDN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT, I TOOK A LOT OF COLD MEDICINE AND FORCED MYSELF SLEEP
I WENT TO THE GYM
THINGS WERE GOING PRETTY WELL
AS LONG AS PEOPLE WORK, AND EAT, AND SLEEP, THEY CAN SURVIVE
LIKE A STRANGE DARKNESS
NOTHING
I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING
EXCEPT FOR THAT I HAD NOTHING
BUT THAT'S ALL

I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM TAKASUGI I HADN'T HEARD FROM HIM IN A LONG TIME
AND THEN
YOU REMEMBER HIM, RIGHT? MY EX-BOYFRIEND
THERE WAS THIS GAP OF PURE WHITE SPACE IN MY HEAD
EVERYTHING WAS GONE
I SEARCHED MY MEMORY. BUT I COULDN'T EVEN BRING ONE LETTER TO MIND
—I COULDN'T REMEMBER YOUR NAME, SENPAI
AFTER THAT WHEN I TRIED TO THINK OF IT—
THEN WE HAD A NICE CHAT AND HUNG UP, BUT...
HE ASKED ME, "HOW'S YOUR FRIEND FROM COLLEGE DOING?"
AND I REPLIED LIGHTLY, "HE'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE."
I GOT REALLY FREAKED OUT—
—AND CALLED TAKASUGI IN A PANIC
I ASKED "WHAT'S MY COLLEGE FRIEND'S NAME AGAIN?"

AT FIRST HE LAUGHED "IT'S KYOUICHI COTOMO DON'T BE SILLY"
IT WAS TERRIBLE
I STARTED CRYING INTO THE RECEIVER
HE SAID "YOU'RE TRAUMATIZED BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE DUMPED YOU" TAKASUGI WAS SERIOUSLY ANGRY AND HE WENT ON AND ON ABOUT HOW AWFUL YOU WERE SENPAI
I FELT LIKE SUCH AN IDIOT...
I'D MADE A PERFECTLY CLEAN BREAK
BUT
AT THAT TIME...
—I PRAYED TO GOD FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
FROM HOW ON IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENS—
BUT PLEASE DON'T TAKE HIS NAME AWAY FROM ME

I GOT A CALL FROM TAMAKI-CHAN
RIGHT AFTER THAT...
I WON'T STOP YOU FROM MARRYING HER
I THINK YOU MAKE A GOOD COUPLE I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY
SENPAI
CAN'T YOU LEAVE SOME PLACE IN YOUR LIFE FOR ME?
PLEASE
YOU COULD SEE ME
BUT MAYBE ONCE A MONTH OR ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS

CAN'T I BE YOUR LOVER?
IMA-GASE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DOING WHATEVER HE WANTS
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
I'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU TELL ME
IMA-GA
I WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE
I'M IN A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH TAMAKI NOW AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER
I'M NOT GOING TO KEEP ON REPEATING THE PAST
I WON'T PUT HER IN THAT POSITION

FIRST OF ALL, WHY SHOULD I TAKE A MALE LOVER?
WE DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP IF YOU DON'T WANT ONE
JUST LET ME SEE YOU !
SEE ME? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU SAID I WAS NO GOOD FOR YOU
NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN
IN FACT, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE
IMAGASE
I'M GOING TO SAY THIS CLEARLY. I'M NOT HOMO-SEXUAL
JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T BE INTER-ESTED IN WOMEN...
...I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO LOVE A MAN.

"SOMEDAY HE'LL FIND A WOMAN."
"HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE MY LOVER."
YOU JUST THOUGHT "HE'S ONLY BEING NICE TO ME BECAUSE HE WANTS SOMETHING IN RETURN."
I DID EVERYTHING YOU WANTED
I SAID ALL THE WORDS I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO HEAR
AND WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THAT? DID YOU FEEL SECURE?
I CAN'T DO MORE THAN THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU GAVE UP ON ME?
I WAS A FOOL
YOU WERE TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT
"I DIDN'T KNOW IT."
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING A HAPPY PERSON WOULD SAY
NO.
I WAS ARROGANT AND DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HAPPINESS WHEN I HAD IT.

I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED YOU LOOK UNHAPPY
AND THAT'S WHY
I DON'T NEED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!
I'LL DECIDE WHETHER I'M HAPPY OR NOT!
YOU'RE JUST WALLOWING IN ALL THESE SAPPY EMOTIONS
GET A GRIP
YOU'RE SO SELF-CENTERED
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL LOVE...
...THEN IT'S JUST A LOAD OF CRAP

TH
I'M NOT GONNA FALL FOR THIS "I'M SO PURE AND INNOCENT" ACT ANYMORE
YOU...
IF I WERE A WOMAN, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN THROW SNOT ON ME!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU JUST CHASE AFTER SOMEONE YOU FIND SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE THEN STOP THEN START AGAIN
IT'S NO BIG DEAL FOR YOU
BUT FOR ME, HAVING A MALE LOVER IS
A GAY MAN COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH!
YOU COULD NEVER UNDER-STAND!

I'M SICK OF IT !
I ENVY PEOPLE WHO CAN CRY ON THE SPOT
WHEN I'M REALLY SAD—
MY HEART CLOSES UP AND GROWS COLD I CAN'T FEEL A THING
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE
RATTLE
IT'S NOT UNTIL
I'M SURE EVERYTHING IS OVER AND DONE
THAT THE LID ON MY HEART FLIES OPEN AGAIN

Pshhsss

set down
SCOOP
gurgle
gurgle
gurgle

rattle
...
YOU WERE REALLY HURT WHEN I SAID "YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME." WEREN'T YOU?
I STEPPED ON A LAND MINE
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF PRIDE
AND WHETHER YOUR PARTNER SEES YOU POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO YOU.
I'M SORRY THAT WHAT I SAID HURT YOU.
I APOLOGIZE

WHEN YOU TELL SOMEONE HE'S NO GOOD FOR YOU, IT'S OVER.
WHO ENJOYS BEING REJECTED BY SOMEONE?
I MAKE ONE COMPLAINT AND YOU GET RID ME?
EVEN THOUGH I SAID I LOVED YOU SO MANY TIMES...?
IT'S TOO LATE NOW
I'LL NEVER SAY IT AGAIN
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
THE TRUTH IS, I WASN'T GOOD FOR YOU.
THAT'S HOW YOU REALLY FELT INSIDE.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE EVENTUALLY... WITH OR WITHOUT ME
I'LL DIE WITHOUT YOU

I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED.
I CAN'T.
STAY WITH ME.
I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE A LOVER.
THEN LET ME BE YOUR LOVER.
TSK
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A LOVER?
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING ON THIS ACT IN FRONT OF ME?
GIVEN YOUR TRACK RECORD NOTHING YOU SAY COUNTS
I KNOW YOUR TASTE IN WOMEN.
SHE STILL LOOKS LIKE AN ADORABLE LITTLE GIRL BUT SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DOWN-TO-EARTH AND ASSERTIVE.
I CAN TELL YOU'RE MADLY IN LOVE WITH TANAKI.

SOMEONE WILL PUT PRESSURE ON YOU. YOU'LL FIND IT HARD TO SAY NO AND THEN YOU'LL CHEAT
AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU... SO THE SAME OLD THING IS GONNA HAPPEN
BUT THERE'S NO UNSHAKABLE EVERLASTING LOVE IN THIS WORLD...
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN WHY NOT USE ME?
I'LL HANDLE IT QUIETLY UNLIKE A WOMAN
I DON'T COST ANY MONEY. NO ONE WOULD FIND OUT. I WOULDN'T GET PREGNANT. AND I CAN GIVE YOU MANY THINGS THAT A WOMAN CAN'T
I'D BE EASY TO KEEP
I THINK I'D MAKE YOU A GOOD LOVER
I DON'T WANT THAT

...THAT?
...YOU DON'T WANT...
... DON'T WANT ME
YOU ...
I SEE

FROM THE BEGINNING...
...FROM THE MOMENT WE MET...
...I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME
IT'S TOO LATE NOW
I CAN'T CHANGE

IT'S YOUR FAULT
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SPOKE TO ME FIRST
AND I HAD A LOT OF OTHER CHANCES IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
BECAUSE OF YOU, I MISSED OUT ON EVERY OTHER OPPORTUNITY.
EXCEPT FOR YOU! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SWEEPS MY HEART AWAY!
I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING...!
BUT I HAVE NOTHING!
YES
THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CAN SWEEP YOUR HEART AWAY AND THEY'RE EVERYWHERE
YOU'RE LUCKY

I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY
IF YOU GET PAST THIS... THERE'LL BE OTHERS...
YOU'LL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AND LAUGH
WHAT DOES IT MATTER?!
THAT STUFF...!
ANY OF THAT STUFF...!

I LOVE YOU
I'LL
LOVE YOU
UNTIL I DIE!

I KNOW

rattle

I'M LEAVING
I'M SATISFIED
YOU'VE BECOME A GOOD GUY, SENPAI
DID I MAKE YOU WHAT YOU ARE TODAY?
THE DRIFTING SAMURAI HAS BECOME A RESPECTABLE MAN. I CAN RELAX NOW
I GUESS IT'S WRONG TO MAKE A GIRL SIT ON THE FLOOR
This apartment has a woman all over it
YOU MANAGED TO FIT A DINING ROOM SET INTO THIS SMALL SPACE
OR WAS IT THE POWER TAMAKI-CHAN'S LOVE?
AND I DON'T EXPECT I'LL EVER GET ANY MYSELF
There are some good vantages to being gay
A LOT OF MY FRIENDS ARE GETTING MARRIED THIS YEAR AND I'M GETTING POOR FROM GIVING OUT GIFT MONEY
WHATEVER YOU DO DON'T INVITE ME TO THE WEDDING
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH HER

WELL, SENPAI
TAKE CARE
WILL YOU GIVE ME ONE LAST HUG?
5 SECONDS WILL DO
THIS
REALLY IS THE LAST TIME

I GET IT NOW.
I WAS TRYING TO SEE HOW MUCH I COULD RELY ON YOU
IF YOUR FEELINGS ARE HALF-HEARTED...
—I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GO BACK!

I'VE REACHED THE END OF MY ROPE.
MY CARTRIDGE IS ALREADY EMPTY.
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
SENPAI...!
SOME WAY OR ANOTHER, PLEASE...
IS THIS THE END?

I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE BEEN SPOUTING NOTHING BUT NONSENSE
MAKE ME YOUR LOVER HUG ME FOR FIVE SECONDS
FUCK ME!
DON'T THINK! JUST WANT ME!
FORGET ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND AND THE BAD STUFF THAT HAPPENED TO HER! FORGET THAT SHE S IN THE HOSPITAL!
SLEEP WITH ME RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

I'M TELLING YOU, I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU! AND I'M GOING TO LEAVE!
SO USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO RESTRAIN ME AND HOLD ME AGAINST MY WILL!
YOU...!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOU WAS A FUCKING WASTE OF TIME!

I'M GONNA THROW IT ALL AWAY!
EVERY-THING!
OPEN
GOOD BYE!
TAKE CARE!
I'M GONNA FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU AND START A BETTER LIFE!

SFX WHACK
LET GO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
SFX SMACK
SFX BANG

NOBBLE
NN
...!
...!

FLOP
GRAB
THUNK
NO
GRAB
CLINK
SFX FLUMP
NO

SFX: SLIDE
THERE'S A WOMAN'S SCENT IN YOUR BED .!
STOP!
THIS
YOU WERE MINE!
YOU WERE MINE!
THIS IS AWFUL.
YOU KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEFT

I'LL SHOW YOU...!
I DON'T JUST SLEEP WITH WHOEVER IS AVAILABLE ANYMORE
I DON'T WANT US TO BE APART
AND YET, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER...
...I LIKE TO LET GO AND BE FREE SOMETIMES.
THUS, LIKE A FOOL, I KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS DESPERATE LOVE.

SHUT UP!
ISN'T IT BETTER THAN HAVING NO CENTER AT ALL?
WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE CENTER AROUND IF NOT YOURSELF?
YOU'RE JUST SELF-CENTERED
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE FILLED WITH PRIDE AND SADISTIC DESIRES?

SHUT UP.

I W. NT CONTINUE BEING SELFISH LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

ARE WE MADE FOR EACH OTHER?
AAH
I'M A MASS OF DESIRE
I'M A MASS OF DESIRE NOW.

BEEEP
That's annoying
flip
flip
flip
She wears ponytails and cooks
SFX GRAB
NM...
It's cold...
NN

"Cat" is a slang term for the submissive partner in a homosexual relationship
WAIT!
ALL OF SUDDEN, DOWN THERE?
THERE'S A CHANNEL?
HUH?
The "cat" channel?*
I CAN'T JUST CHANGE THE CHANNEL LIKE THAT!
SFX PUSH
UH
HEY!
JUST A MIN—
AH—
creak
THE DRIFTING SAMURAI HAS SKILL
YOU CAN DEAL WITH ANYONE AND ANYTHING WHEN YOU DO IT THAT WAY
I SEE
slide
AH
SFX CREAK
WELL, EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T—
—I M PUTTING IT IN—
AH!
HAVE YOU CHANGED THE CHANNEL YET?
UH
UHN—
WHEN A TOMCAT GETS MARKED BY A STRANGE CAT—
—HE WON'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN!
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD FUCK ME LIKE A WOMAN AND I'D JUST PURR OBEDIENTLY?

SFX CREAK
creak
creak
creak
AH
AH!
UH
AH
creak
creak
AH
AH
NN

Damn it
Cluck
Oh, incomplete combustion
toss
I THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW MORE RESISTANCE
YOU WERE MOANING SO OPENLY I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME SO FAST
pull
AH.
AH.
AH.
I guess it's embarrassing when someone who has been on top is forced to be on the bottom.
IS IT TAMAKI-CHAN'S INFLUENCE?
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED, HASN'T IT?
flump
IS THIS WHAT A WOMAN FEELS LIKE?
You're so cute
HUH?
CUT IT OUT! DON'T ASK THAT KIND OF STUFF ABOUT WOMEN
WHATEVER IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
BECAUSE WHAT ENTERS YOUR BODY BECOMES YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD
...TAMAKI-CHAN'S MEALS.
YOU'VE BEEN EATING...
I KNEW IT BUT IT STILL ANNOYS ME

I'VE NEVER COOKED FOR OTHER MEN, BUT
I COOKED FOR YOU
YOU ATE UP MY MEALS WITHOUT THINKING, BUT
THEY WERE SOME-THING SPECIAL
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO COOK WE COULD HAVE JUST GONE OUT
YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR!
JUST LIKE WHEN YOU SAID I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU!
WE ALMOST ALWAYS ATE OUT, YOU KNOW
SHUT UP. I DON'T LIKE YOU ANY MORE
YOU'RE SO COLD AFTER SEX
IT SPOILS THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT
YOUR TIMING ALWAYS MAKES ME WONDER IF WE SHOULD BREAK UP

IN THE END, I WIND UP FALLING EVEN DEEPER IN LOVE WITH YOU...
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMEONE ELSE I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO
I WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER
BUT RIGHT AFTER THAT... I FEEL TEARS WELL UP IN MY EYES...
ARE YOU SAYING
...I TURNED INTO THE KIND OF GUY WHO JUST WANTS TO SCREW YOU?
IS THAT YOUR CONCLUSION?
THE WAY YOU USE THE BODY GOD GAVE YOU...!
I'M SURE THE GODS HAVE THEIR HEADS IN THEIR HANDS
I have my head in my hands the most but
YOU THINK SO?
DON'T YOU THINK THE GODS PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO WHERE THEY PUT THE PROSTATE GLAND?
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU...
...WASN'T JUST ABOUT SEX
kuu
NN...

IF A GUY LIKE ME HAD TOLD YOU HE LOVED YOU AND ONLY USED WORDS, YOU WOULD HAVE SAID, "THANKS. I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT," AND IT WOULD HAVE ENDED RIGHT THERE.
YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE FELT ANYTHING FOR ME IN THE FIRST PLACE IF OUR RELATIONSHIP HAD REMAINED PLATONIC.
...YOU ALWAYS WIND UP WANTING MY BODY. DON'T YOU? WHEN WE HAD SEX IT WAS LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO WORK OUT, BUT IT WAS JUST A STOPGAP MEASURE.
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT LOVE YOU SEEM SO PURE AT HEART. BUT
IN FACT THAT'S WHY YOU FELL FOR ME.
THE BODY HAS A PERSUASIVE POWER OF ITS OWN.
IN ORDER TO GET A STRAIGHT GUY LIKE YOU, I HAD TO STAKE MY CLAIM AND DRIVE YOU INTO A CORNER WHILE SEALING THE DEAL.
roll over
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT CHANNELS.
Why do you want such a comfortable life?
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
BUT YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SWITCH TO THE TAMAKI CHANNEL IN THE MORNING.
INSTEAD OF A STOPGAP SOLUTION, I THOUGHT IT WAS REAL!
WELL, EXCUSE ME, BUT I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD WORK OUT WITH THAT STOPGAP SOLUTION!
AND BECAUSE OF YOUR STOPGAP SOLUTION MY MIND AND BODY WERE TOYED WITH.
MAN IS A CREATURE OF STOPGAP SOLUTIONS.
IN MY OWN WAY, I TRIED MY BEST TO MAKE DO AND GO OUT WITH A MAN...!

A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEN CAN'T WORK!
STOPGAP SOLUTION OR NOT THIS CAN'T WORK!
YEAH THAT'S RIGHT MEN CAN NEVER GET ALONG!
SEE? YOU'RE BEING ANNOYING AGAIN...
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OTHER GAY MEN?
ARE ALL GAY MEN AS ANNOYING AS YOU ARE?
KINDA
DO YOU THINK I'M ANNOYING?

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU
IF YOU WANT A COMFORTABLE LIFE YOU'RE BETTER OFF ALONE
I DON'T USUALLY GO THIS FAR
I PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT DIDN'T I?
I'VE HAD IT.
LIFE... SEEMS SO LONG
I'M WORN OUT

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?

* In kanji, the word 'cute' (kawaii) is written 可愛い. These characters form the words 愛す (love) and 可し (should/must) so when you call someone "cute," you're really saying he's "lovable" or someone you "must love."

I DON'T HATE MY JOB. BUT
THERE ARE PARTS OF IT I DON'T LIKE.
LIKE FORAGING THROUGH GARBAGE
OR FINDING THE DEAD BODY OF SOMEONE I WAS LOOKING FOR. THOSE DAYS ARE REALLY DEPRESSING.
I'M GAY
AND GAYS SHOULD GET ALONG WITH OTHER GAYS
I REALLY BELIEVE THAT. I'VE EVEN TOLD THAT TO MY GAY FRIENDS
PATHETIC
WITH YOU IN MY LIFE I COULD ENDURE ANYTHING
BUT WHEN I COME HOME FROM ONE OF THOSE DEPRESSING DAYS
I FEEL, DEEP INSIDE THAT YOU SHOULD BE THERE WHEN I GET HOME

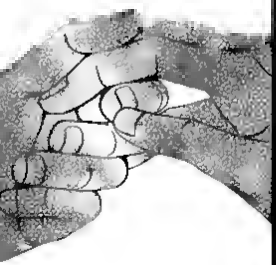
SENPAI
PLEASE
BREAK UP WITH HER

OKAY
HUH?
TOMORROW
WHEN?
WELL, TODAY
YOU'RE KIDDING!
I KNEW IT-
I WAS SURE
NO
"IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE UNSURE?"
"I DON'T WANT TO."
"WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU SEE HER AGAIN?"

IMAGASE AND EVERYONE AROUND ME...

MAYBE I'LL MAKE EVERYONE UNHAPPY...

IF WE MEET AGAIN, I'LL FALL COMPLETELY.



...THAT I'VE SO CAREFULLY BUILT UP SINCE THEN
I'LL LOSE EVERYTHING...

THAT GRAY COAT...
LOOKS GOOD ON YOU
REALLY?
DID SHE PICK IT OUT?
AM I BEING INSENSITIVE? BREAKING UP WITH HER
IT'S BETTER TO BE INSENSITIVE IF YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH HER
HEY!
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO DO IT?
WHY? BECAUSE I SAID "BREAK UP WITH HER?"
WELL...
FRANKLY, YES
ARE YOU CRAZY?
I SAID I'D BE YOUR LOVER!
NO
WHAT'S WITH YOU? "BREAK UP WITH HER." "DON'T BREAK UP WITH HER."
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU
TO BE SO DECISIVE THAT SOMEONE GETS HURT
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THAT BEFORE

ISN'T IT CRUEL TO DUMP HER THE DAY AFTER ALL THIS BAD STUFF HAPPENED?
SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D EVER SUSPECT I'M A THREAT
EVERY-THING WILL WORK OUT
OR MAYBE I'LL MARRY HER AND KEEP SEEING YOU ON THE SIDE?
I'LL WAIT UNTIL SHE FEELS SETTLED THEN MENTION THAT I WANT TO BREAK UP?
SO I SHOULD WAIT UNTIL HER WOUNDS HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED?
BUT
DUMPING HER RIGHT AWAY IS THE LEAST OBJEC-TIONABLE OPTION
I'M CRUEL, ANYWAY
WHICH IS ONE IS WORSE?
YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT
BUT
NO ONE SAID YOU HAD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
IF I BREAK UP WITH HER?
MAYBE YOU'RE BACKING OFF BECAUSE YOU'LL FEEL RESPON-SIBLE
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?

SLEEPING WITH A MAN AFTER ALL THIS TIME HAS GOT YOU ALL WORKED UP, HASN'T IT?
DON'T BE SO HOT-HEADED
OR DO YOU LIKE TO BE FUCKED LIKE THAT, SENPAI?
CHUCKLE
IF SO, I'M AVAILABLE ANY TIME YOU WANT
GIVE YOUR LIFE SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT
WELL, I GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED MYSELF LAST NIGHT
WHEN I'M TREATED SO SADISTICALLY, I GO ALL MUSHY INSIDE
DO YOU SEE A WOMAN IN YOUR FUTURE?
YOU SAY YOU'RE GONNA BREAK UP WITH HER.
EVEN IF I TOOK WHAT YOU SAID IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT IN BED AT FACE VALUE...
...I'M WORRIED.

IMAGASE
I'M TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
A CALM, SECURE FUTURE?
OR
... OR BRIEF MOMENT OF PLEASURE

NEITHER...
I DON'T WANT EITHER
NEITHER...
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ALL THE TIME
JUST MORE THAN NEVER.
THAT'S ALL
I WANT TO FEEL YOU'RE THERE FOR ME
I.
...WANT TO BE BOUND TO YOU

I'M JUST EATING AWAY YOUR CURRENT EXISTENCE
I CAN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY
WE'RE BOTH SO SELFISH
I'LL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT I'M HAPPY
I'M GOING OUT
WAIT HERE
CLOSE

IMAGASE, I FORGOT MY UMBRE...
open
It's cold
DID THEY SAY IT'S GOING TO SNOW TODAY?
IN MY MIND GOD IS...
"IT'S OVER"
DOES THAT MEAN "I'VE HAD IT"
YOU DIDN'T KISS ME WHEN YOU LEFT
!!
YOU SCARED ME! WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SAYING.
Your negative god won't accept it? Shit.
.....
Sigh
I'VE COME THIS FAR, SO I'M NOT LETTING GO THAT EASILY...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT...
DON'T BELIEVE THAT STUFF
YOUR GOD IS NEGATIVE AND HYSTERICAL

ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED...
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FORCE TO USE. THIS MASOCHISTIC SIDE OF YOU IS REALLY PERVERSE!
DON'T ASK ME TO DO THAT VERY OFTEN
IF YOU SAY MEAN THINGS TO ME AND ROUGH ME UP LIKE YOU DID YESTERDAY, I'LL FOLLOW YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
HE LOOKS HAPPY
SWEARING IS HARD!
SEN-PAI
HAVE YOU EVER DUMPED A GIRL?
YOU SHOULDN'T SIT DOWN
IF SHE CLINGS TO YOU, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PULL AWAY
STAND UP AND TALK FAST
GIVE HER THE BOOT IN FIVE MINUTES OR LESS
I FORGOT WHY I CAME BACK
I'm leaving. Ugh
DIDN'T YOU COME BACK FOR A KISS?
Kiss
BE THE BAD GUY. ACT MEAN ON PURPOSE
FOR HER OWN GOOD DON'T SAY ANYTHING NICE TO HER MAKE HER THINK SHE NEVER WANTS TO SEE YOU AGAIN
THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD DO
I STILL HAVE TO SEE HER AT THE OFFICE. I CAN'T SAY MEAN THINGS TO HER
...
W-IS THAT IT?

MY STOMACH IS KILLING ME...!
PLEASE STAY A LITTLE LONGER
JUST TWO OR THREE MINUTES...
ME TOO
YOU'RE A WRECK
WERE YOU ALWAYS SO PATHETIC?
IMAGASE

chatter
chatter
Please change trains.
Both lines are currently out of order due to an earlier accident with the overhead wiring.
I THOUGHT I DID MY BEST TO CARE FOR YOU
IS IT MY FAULT THAT YOU'RE SO MESSED UP?
STATION, EAST.
THE STREETS ARE CROWDED TODAY.
I'LL TAKE THE BACK WAY
BANG
SHINAGAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL PLEASE
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IS TRYING TO TELL ME "RECONSIDER"
BRIEF MOMENT OF PLEASURE
OR
A CALM SECURE FUTURE
"WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?"

AND I'D NEVER DUMP MY GIRLFRIEND FOR A MOMENT OF PLEASURE
I KNOW HE COULD NEVER FEEL SECURE WITH ME FOREVER
NEITHER OF THOSE THINGS IS POSSIBLE
I THINK I CAN GIVE HIM THAT
BUT A BOND BETWEEN ME AND IMAGASE...
AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TOO
IF IMAGASE HAD CHOSEN ONE OPTION OR THE OTHER
I WOULD HAVE ENDED THIS

SHOULDN'T YOU BE CHOOSING A SERIOUS PARTNER AT YOUR AGE?!
A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT EVEN BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN CAN'T LAST FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
WHAT WILL YOU BE TO HIM? NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, HE JUST WANTS TO BE YOUR LOVER!
TWO PATHETIC MEN HOOKING UP WITH EACH OTHER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IMAGASE SAID IT'S OKAY TO BE LOVERS YOU CAN MAKE THAT WORK, RIGHT?
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO BREAK UP WITH TAMAKI?
YOU'LL HAVE PROBLEMS SOONER OR LATER. YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THAT DAY
IT'S OKAY IF HE GETS TIRED OF YOU AND ENDS IT QUIETLY, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST LIKE AT WORK I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO
I'M BREAKING UP WITH TAMAKI
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT
NO. DON'T HESITATE
ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE A BIG FIGHT, HAVE SEX AND MAKE UP EVERY TIME HE DOES THAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?
IMAGASE IS TOO INSECURE HE'S GONNA FLIP OUT OVER SOMETHING STUPID AND RUN AWAY AGAIN
DO YOU THINK THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL LAST THAT LONG?
CAN YOU DESIGNATE HIM AS A RECIPIENT ON YOUR INSURANCE PLAN?
YOU'RE ONLY GETTING OLDER
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN STAND BY IMAGASE WITHOUT HURTING HIM?
THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE! WHAT IF YOUR PARENTS FIND OUT SOMEDAY? HOW ARE YOU GONNA EXPLAIN THIS TO THEM?
DON'T BREAK UP WITH TAMAKI!
THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE REALISTICALLY!

I'M GOING TO LEAVE HER.
I WON'T LET GO OF IMAGASE, NO MATTER WHAT
NO MATTER WHAT..
I'M GOING TO LEAVE.

IS IT THIS CRUSHING PAIN IN THE CENTER OF MY BODY?
IS IT SUFFERING LIKE EVERYTHING HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM UNDER MY FEET?
LIKE MY OTHER BURDENS ARE NOTHING?
IS THIS LOVE? REALLY?
THAT WAS JUST CHILDISH DREAM.
I THOUGHT LOVE WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
IF THIS IS LOVE ..
I'M NOT KIDDING
IT'S CLOSE NOW
I'LL GET OFF AND WALK FROM HERE
...I NEVER WANT TO LOVE AGAIN.
IF THIS IS LOVE...

LOVE IS DIVINE PUNISHMENT

OH, TOO BAD! MY MOTHER JUST LEFT
YEAH
UM
REALLY, JUST TWO OR THREE MINUTES...
THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD CHANCE FOR YOU TO MEET YOU JUST MISSED HER
shudder
KYOU-ICHI-SAN?
I'M SORRY
HUH?

I'M BREAKING UP...
WITH YOU
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M SORRY
IT'S MY FAULT
IT'S REALLY ALL MY FAULT
BUT NO MATTER WHAT...
KYOU-ICHI-SAN
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST STAND THERE...
...AND TALK ABOUT THIS?
SIT DOWN.

AND DISCUSS THIS PROPERLY
SIT DOWN
LOOK ME IN THE EYE
NOW

Notes: When Someone's Wish Comes True Lyrics: Hikaru Utada Music: Hikaru Utada

I CAN'T DO THIS
YESTER-DAY
WHEN?
I'M SORRY
MY EX HAS COME BACK

...GOING TO MARRY HER?
ARE YOU...
YOU AND ... GOT BACK TOGETHER?
I CAN'T. NO BUT...
YOU CAN'T? WHY?
...
I'M SORRY.
I'VE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING FROM YOU. THE TRUTH IS...
SORRY...
WELL...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HER, YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED. I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS LIKE THAT FROM WATCHING MY OWN PARENTS.
I'M SORRY. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS...
...THAT WAS A TACTLESS QUESTION.

SHE TRULY LOVES YOU AND CAN'T BE APART
SHE LOVES YOU SO MUCH THAT SHE CAME BACK KYOUICHI-SAN
BUT
NO
THEY'RE ALWAYS ON THE VERGE OF LOSING THEIR TEMPER.
AND REFUSING TO SEE REALITY
...AND LOSE THEIR SENSE OF SELF
I'M THINKING THEY'LL BECOME TOO ATTACHED AGAIN—
HONEST-LY I'M DUBIOUS
I DON'T KNOW
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD
THEY CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL.
—THEY DON'T UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL
THEY JUST LET THEIR IMMEDIATE EMOTIONS CONTROL THEM, SO
IT WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT I THINK I CAN LIVE WITH IT SOMEHOW—IT WILL WORK OUT
I INTEND TO STAY CALM

QUITE HONESTLY
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME
EVEN NOW
I COULD GO HOME AND THEY MIGHT BE GONE ALREADY
KYOU-ICHI-SAN ...
...YOUR LOVE IS UNRE-QUITED.

WELL
IF THAT'S THE CASE
MAYBE I SHOULD WAIT FOR YOU?
HUH?
I SHOULDN'T WAIT FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG?
AM I A BAD PERSON?
YOU GUYS CAN'T BE TOGETHER, RIGHT? AND IT'S PROBABLY JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU BREAK UP... RIGHT?
YES...
BUT I CAN'T ASK YOU TO WAIT FOR ME

I REALLY LOVE YOU, TAMAKI. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THIS WITH A WOMAN UNTIL YESTERDAY. I WAS PLANNING TO STAY WITH YOU FOREVER
NO!
BUT...
THEN I'LL WAIT
WERE YOU PLANNING TO BREAK UP WITH ME ANYWAY?
THEN MAYBE SHE JUST HAPPENED TO COME BACK AT THE RIGHT TIME...
WHY?
GO OUT WITH HER. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME
IT'S OKAY
I'LL BE FINE...
I'M USED TO WAITING FOR PEOPLE WHO AREN'T AROUND EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD
THAT'S HOW IT WAS WITH MY DADDY

WHY ARE YOU SITTING THERE SO QUIETLY?
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME FROM THE START KYOUICHI-SAN?
"I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU."
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU MY REPLY
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?
ARE YOU THINKING YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING NICE?
WHEN YOU BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE
"I'VE LOST INTEREST IN YOU."
OR "I DON'T LIKE YOU ANY MORE."
I CAN'T SAY THAT

I'M SORRY.
.....
BUT...
...I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU.
.....
I WISH THERE WERE TWO OF YOU, KYOUICHI-SAN
I'M SORRY.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?
IF I COULD CUT MYSELF IN HALF I WOULD
WE'LL DIVIDE YOU INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS STARTING FROM YOUR HEAD
I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT SIDE
YOU LIKE THE RIGHT SIDE?
YES. BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT HANDED KYOUICHI-SAN
BUT I LIKE THE LEFT SIDE TOO

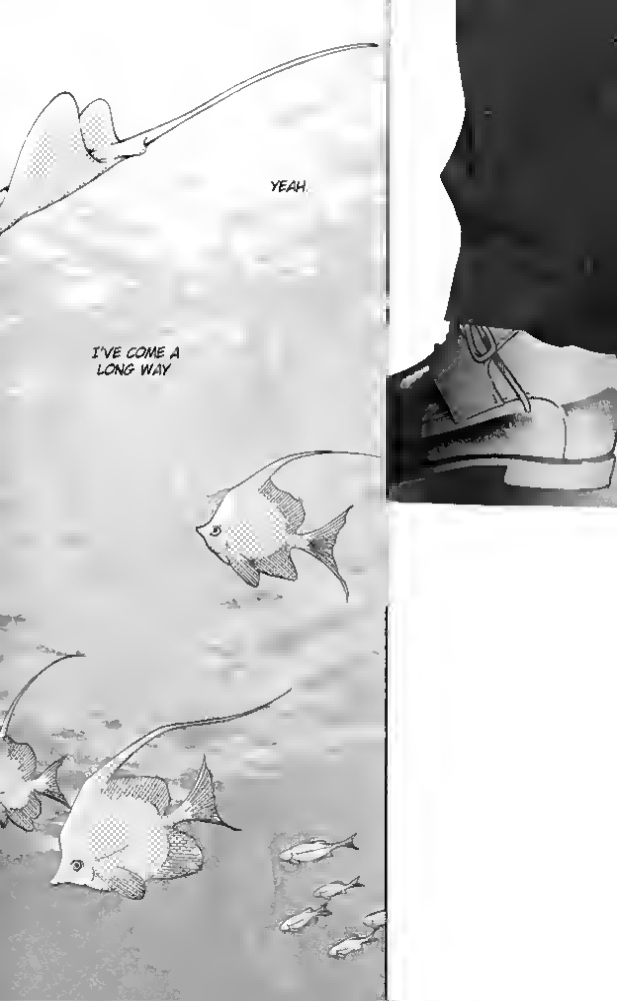
MY MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME—
YOU CAN TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES
I NEVER THOUGHT—
—IT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, TAMAKI. YOU DIDN'T TAKE SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
I DIDN'T BELONG TO ANYONE.

IT'S OKAY.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BELONGED TO HER, KYOUICHI-SAN
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT
I TRULY LOVE YOU, TAMAKI
I'M SORRY THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
I'M SORRY

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH IMAGASE-SAN
IS IT TRUE?
IT'S TRUE...

YOU'RE WORSE THAN SCUM!
AND, WHY, OF ALL PEOPLE, A CHILD LIKE TAMAKI? WHY...?!
DID YOU JUST WANT A WOMAN TO DECIEVE THE PUBLIC?
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DRAG AN INNOCENT PERSON LIKE TAMAKI INTO THIS AND HURT HER?!
IF YOU'RE GAY, WHY DIDN'T YOU MESS AROUND WITH A GUY LIKE YOURSELF?!
YOU DISGUST ME!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY
NO
I'VE HAD IT
IF I WERE GAY THIS
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I MIGHT TELL SOMEONE ELSE
AND DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS
DON'T TREAT WOMEN LIKE FOOLS

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
IF THAT WILL TRULY MAKE TAMAKI FEEL BETTER
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THAT KIND OF WOMAN...
BRK WHACK
I THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER TO BE A NICE PERSON...
IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE...
NO MATTER WHAT'S INSIDE...


YEAH
I'VE COME A LONG WAY

I CAN'T GO BACK...

AGAIN

GUESS WHAT? TODAY I HAD A CT SCAN FOR THE FIRST TIME
I WAS KINDA NERVOUS
IT WAS INTER-ESTING
OH
UH-HUH
SO LISTEN
OOTOMO-SAN BROKE UP WITH ME
JUST NOW
HE'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
TAMAKI THE PERSON HE'S
BUT I'M HAPPY
HE WAS NICE TO ME UNTIL THE VERY END
YOU KNOW
THE SNOW LOOKS SO PURE
BUT POLLUTANTS, LIKE DUST IN THE ATMOSPHERE STICK TO IT AND IT'S ACTUALLY VERY DIRTY

SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT
Haha...
IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER
SERVES HIM RIGHT
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
KYOUICHI-SAN
...DIDN'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA
FORGET IT
NO
IT'S NOTHING
OKAY
THANKS
WELL IT'S JUST...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SUFFER, INSTEAD OF GETTING DEPRESSED YOU JUST GET OVER IT
...SUDDENLY ALL THIS BAD STUFF HAPPENED TO YOU, BUT YOU SEEM HAPPY
YEAH I WAS JUST THINKING THAT... TOO
THAT'S TRUE
BESIDES, I HEAL QUICKLY. I'M STILL YOUNG
I'LL STAY WITH YOU
DON'T WORRY...

THIS PUDDING
IS DELICIOUS
IMAGASE
HE'S NOT HERE?
PUDDING

EVEN WHEN I DO WHAT YOU WANT...
...IN THE END...
...THIS IS YOUR ANSWER?

IM...GASE
YOU DON'T WANT TO DROWN IN A DITCH...
WH..T DO YOU WANT?
DO YOU WANT ME TO HOLD YOU T..GETHER WITH CHE..P CLICHES?
WORDS LIKE THAT COULD NEVER ADEQUATELY EXPRESS MY FEELINGS
NOTHING HAS CHANGED
YOU'RE GOING TO GET SUSPICIOUS AGAIN SOON.
AND IN THE END IT ALWAYS WINDS UP LIKE THIS
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE BEEN THROUGH THIS?
LIKE THIS
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
IF YOU STOP CLINGING TO ME, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SWIM ON YOUR OWN.

VROOM
WHOOSH

SORRY, UH, SOMETHING CAME UP AND I HAD TO LEAVE..
SENPAI.
YOU THREW AWAY THE ASHTRAY ON PURPOSE?
DON'T THROW THINGS OUT LIKE THAT.
Jeez.
(...)
SORRY
WE'VE COME THIS FAR AND WE'RE STILL STRUGGLING.
HOW FAR DO WE NEED TO GO?
WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST WAIT 2 OR 3 HOURS?
I BROKE UP WITH HER
IT SEEMS YOU DON'T TRUST ME VERY MUCH.
YOU REALLY BROKE UP WITH HER?

I CAN'T!
I CAN'T BE WITH YOU AFTER ALL
ARE YOU CRAZY?! TAKE IT BACK RIGHT AWAY!
HUH?
YOU'RE NO GOOD FOR ME!
I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH!
IF YOU EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE, I'LL FALL APART!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
MY EMOTIONS ARE SO ERRATIC. I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING NOWHERE...
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT YOU!
I'M NO FUN ANYMORE!

IT'S ONLY WHEN I'M AROUND YOU THAT I CAN'T BE MYSELF!
I'M REALLY NOT LIKE THIS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M CALLING IT QUITS!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WAY I WAS!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP BLATHERING?!
CUT IT OUT, YOU MORON!

YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING THINGS OUT WITH ME?!

YOU'RE A MAN, SO BUCK UP!
I'M ALREADY PREPARED FOR THE WORST
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE AGAIN.
YOU'RE SO MANLY...
DON'T FALL ANY FURTHER THAN THIS
YOU'LL GET OUT OF CONTROL.
HUH? ARE YOU SAYING I WENT OVER-BOARD?
YOU'RE ACTING ALL TOUGH, BUT YOU'RE BLUSHING A LITTLE OH! HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING?

I NEVER WANT TO DO THAT AGAIN!
TO TELL THE TRUTH OUT OF ALL THE WOMEN I'VE DATED SO FAR, SHE THE FIRST ONE I DIDN'T WANT TO DUMP!
I HAD TO DUMP A REALLY NICE GIRL BECAUSE OF YOU!
Even though I told you not to?
HOW WE BROKE UP IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
NO WAY! YOU WERE HOLDING EACH OTHER AND SOBBING IN HER HOSPITAL ROOM WHILE YOU BROKE UP WITH HER?
I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU MESSING UP MY PRIVATE LIFE! I'M BUSY STOP TAKING UP ALL MY TIME!
AND WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, TAKING A PERSON'S MEAGER HAPPINESS THEN DESTROYING IT BY RUNNING AWAY?!
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS LISTEN TO ME COMPLAIN!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT ANYONE ELSE TO COMPLAIN TO!
I'M BUSY, TOO.
SO WHY ARE YOU COMPLAINING TO ME ABOUT THESE THINGS?

ANYWAY YOU SAID THE FORBIDDEN WORD A SECOND TIME!
I WON'T OVERLOOK IT A THIRD TIME!
HUH?
JUST NOW, YOU SAID "I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU" AGAIN!
NEXT TIME YOU SAY IT I'M ENDING IT FOR REAL! REMEMBER THAT!
OH IS THAT IT?
YOU'RE STILL HURT? YOU'RE SO SENSITIVE
BUT IS IT HARDER TO TREAT ME WITH SENSITIVITY—
—THAN YOU OR SOME STRANGE WOMAN SOMEWHERE?
YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOU'RE THE ONE—
—WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU ARE WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE "MAKE ME YOUR LOVER"

IF I MADE YOU MY LOVER, DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DEAD BODIES WOULD TURN UP?
I'll kill you then kill myself
YEAH YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THE WORST?
YOU'RE REALLY PATHETIC THIS SNAKE-LIKE MAN HAS LATCHED ONTO YOU AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN GAY
I JUST THOUGHT I'D SETTLE THE MOST DIFFICULT THINGS FIRST
BESIDES, WHEN YOU'RE UNSTEADY ON YOUR FEET LIKE ME, YOU CAN WALK STRAIGHTER CARRYING A DIFFICULT BURDEN
PERHAPS
SFX: SHAA

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PUT THAT MUCH INTO ME
MAYBE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK I'LL FIND A MAN I LIKE BETTER AND DUMP YOU.
WHEN I LOSE INTEREST IT HAPPENS FAST
I KNOW YOU'LL GIVE ME THE BOOT IN FIVE MINUTES OR LESS
WELL IF IT HAPPENS NEXT WEEK THAT'S OKAY OUR WOUNDS WILL BE PRETTY SUPERFICIAL
WELL WHAT IF IT HAPPENS TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW?
WHAT IF, ONE DAY AFTER YOU'VE COME TO COUNT ON ME COMPLETELY I RUN OFF WITH A YOUNGER GUY AND DISAPPEAR?
Seems likely
WELL, EVEN IF IT'S 20 YEARS LATER, THAT'S OKAY I'M GOING TO SAVE MY MONEY AND IMPROVE MYSELF
THERE ARE QUITE A FEW YOUNG GIRLS WHO'D BE INTERESTED IN A DISTINGUISHED MIDDLE AGED MAN WITH A LOT OF MONEY
I'm kinda looking forward to it
YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE WHEN YOU RE COCKY
SO

WHATEVER HAPPENS HAPPENS
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT MY LIFE
#11
EFX SHAAA
I HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED
I'M OVER THIRTY NOW IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'M GOING TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY AT THIS POINT
I CAN'T DO THE IMPOSSIBLE EVEN IN DREAMS
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY. I'M JUST GOING TO WIND UP GETTING SWEPT AWAY BY THE STRONGEST CURRENT AND SETTLING THINGS PEACEFULLY

THAT'S WHY
...THERE WON'T BE A THIRD TIME
NEXT TIME YOU SAY I'M GO GOOD FOR YOU, WHETHER IT'S RAINING OR SNOWING, I'M NOT COMING AFTER YOU.
THAT WILL REALLY BE THE END
THIS IS HOW
WE'RE BAD FOR EACH OTHER.
DON'T BE SO BOSSY. AT LEAST COME AS FAR AS THE LOCAL BUS STOP.
I'M SERIOUS.
AND BRING AN UMBRELLA.

THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE
THAN THE STRUGGLES OF LOVE
WE'RE
...TOO OLD FOR THIS NOW...

IT SOUNDED COLD, EVEN TO ME
THAT'S TRUE.
LOVING WORDS ARE DIFFICULT FOR ME
I KNOW MY FEELINGS WON'T GET THROUGH TO YOU

THIS DITCH WON'T BE FILLED FOREVER.
SO I'LL BUILD A BRIDGE.
IF IT GETS WASHED AWAY IN A MUDDY STREAM, I'LL REBUILD IT
ARE THINGS IN LIFE SO EASILY BROKEN?
YOU'RE BLOCKING THE WAY
AND SO AM I
IT DOESN'T MATTER
IT'S OKAY

...AND LEAVE ME FOR REAL.
YOU'LL GET WORN OUT...
YOU'LL PROBABLY THROW ME OUT EVENTUALLY.
SOONER OR LATER...
NEXT WEEK—
OR TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW
MAYBE I'LL GAZE, DUMBFOUNDED, AT A LIFE WITH NOTHING LEFT.

KNOWING OUR LOVE HAS DIED
I'LL WATCH YOU LEAVE
THAT'S OKAY
I'LL ADORN THE ROAD OF DEATH WITH FLOWERS
SINCE THAT'S ALL I CAN DO

AND SO...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

MY APARTMENT WILL MAKE A GOOD STORAGE SPACE AS WELL AS A GOOD PLACE TO THINK THINGS OVER
YOUR APARTMENT IS FINE FOR NOW
I'LL PAY FOR IT
NO MATTER WHAT I WANT A BED THAT'S NEVER BEEN USED BY ANYONE BUT YOU AND ME
BUT I WANT TO BUY A NEW BED
LET ME SEE
AND THEN
I WANT TO RESET EVERYTHING AND START OVER.
SOMEWHERE WE CAN BE ALONE
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR.
AND THEN, I WANT TO GO ON A TRIP

I'LL BUY YOU A RING
SORRY I KNOW IT'S A CLICHE. BUT IT'S THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF
THERE'S NO SAYING WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT, BUT...
...IT'LL BE SOME KIND OF PROOF OF HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
IF YOU SPOIL ME LIKE THIS I MIGHT GO OVERBOARD AND WEAR IT TO WORK
IT'S OKAY IF YOU WEAR IT
LET ME BUY A RING FOR YOU, TOO
WELL OKAY BUT
I'M NOT GONNA WEAR IT AT THE OFFICE
THAT'S OKAY
YOU CAN JUST HOLD ON TO IT

THERE'S NO SAYING WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT, BUT...
...IT WILL BE OUR GOOD-LUCK CHARM.
The Camp in the Chopping Block Jumps Twice " End "

FIRST PUBLISHED

MELANCHOLY BUTTERFLY
JUDY OCTOBER 2004 SPECIAL EDITION

THE BLACK CAT YAWNS
DRAWN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS EDITION

OWL
MOBILE FLOWER, DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 5, 2007 ~
FEBRUARY 5, 2008

THE CART ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK JUMPS TWICE
MOBILE FLOWER, DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 20, 2008 ~
APRIL 20, 2009

THIS SERIES STARTED IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE, 'JUDY" IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D WORKED FOR A MAGAZINE GEARED TOWARDS ADULT WOMEN. AND I NEEDED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'D DONE BEFORE. I ASSUMED MY TARGET AUDIENCE WOULD PRIMARILY BE HOUSEWIVES AROUND 30 AND ABOVE, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD DRAW A COMIC THAT READERS LIKE THAT WOULD ENJOY. (PLUS, THE PROPOSAL GIVEN TO ME WAS "SOMETHING LIKE GAY MEN OR SEX!")

AFTER GOING THROUGH VARIOUS THINGS, MY FRIENDS GOT MARRIED AND BECAME HOUSEWIVES. I STARTED OUTLINING THE CHARACTERS, THINKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF COMIC I'D LIKE TO GIVE THEM AS A PRESENT, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, REFLECTING ON MY OWN LIFE.

I THINK I'M THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO FALLS IN LOVE, BUT I FIND IT HARD TO STAY IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A MAN FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. I EXPECT THERE ARE A LOT OF WOMEN WHO FEEL LIKE THAT. BUT WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WERE APPROACHED BY A REALLY WONDERFUL, MANLY WOMAN INSTEAD OF SOME GUY? MY HEART STARTS BEATING WHEN I HAPPEN TO MEET SOME GORGEOUS, YOUNG PERSON. EVEN IF I KNOW IT'S A WOMAN. BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S THE SAME THING THAT LESBIANS FEEL. BUT EVEN IF I HAD THE SAME FEELINGS, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM AND I'D KEEP THINKING, "I'M JUST USED TO IT. I'M JUST GOING ALONG WITH WHAT THE OTHER PERSON WANTS." I IMAGINE THAT'S WHAT I'D DO.

I'M A LOT LIKE KYOUICHI-SAN. WHEN SOMEONE FALLS IN LOVE WITH ME, I FEEL GOOD, AND IF ANOTHER PERSON SHOWS UP WHO CARES MORE FOR ME, NATURALLY, I START TO WONDER IF I SHOULD MAKE A CHANGE. (USUALLY, PEOPLE ENCOURAGE IT!) BUT, IF PROBLEMS OCCUR AND I WIND UP ALONE, WELL, I GUESS I ENJOY BEING ALONE BECAUSE IT'S EASIEST! I'M CONTENT SO I NEVER FEEL MOTIVATED TO CHANGE. EVEN IF I CAN ACCEPT SOMEONE, LOVE IS HARD.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S NOT A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH SOMEONE SO HOPELESS! THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO FALL MADLY IN LOVE FOR NO LOGICAL REASON. EVEN KNOWING THEY'LL GET NOTHING IN RETURN. AND IT'S HARD TO PUT AN END TO THAT KIND OF LOVE. IN THAT RESPECT, I UNDERSTAND IMAGASE COMPLETELY. I REALLY THINK LOVE IS A SICKNESS OR SOMETHING.

BOTH CHARACTERS ARE CLOSE TO ME, AND BASED ON THE FEEDBACK I RECEIVED FROM READERS (BOTH FEMALE AND MALE) I THINK MY READERS FELT CLOSE TO THEM, TOO. READERS WHO WATCHED THEIR PROGRESS WROTE THAT THEY EXPERIENCED SIMILAR FEELINGS OF SYMPATHY FOR KYOUICHI AND IMAGASE. AND I REALIZED THAT WHILE LOVE IS A VERY INDIVIDUAL EVENT, IT'S ALSO SOMETHING UNIVERSAL.

I'VE DEALT WITH THE THEME OF "LOVE" IN MANY STORIES BEFORE, BUT, ACTUALLY, THIS SERIES IS PROBABLY THE FIRST WORK I'VE DRAWN THAT PUTS LOVE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE STORY. AS A WRITER, I FELT IT WAS AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE.

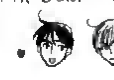
MY PET THEORY IS "MACROCOSM AND MICROCOSM ARE EQUAL IN MAGNITUDE," BUT NOW I'M THINKING IT MIGHT BE FUN TO DRAW SOME MORE COMICS THAT THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THE SMALL UNIVERSE OF LOVE AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF BLIND LOVE.

I WANTED TO SEE KYOUICHI-SAN OVERCOME HIS INDECISIVENESS AND BECOME A GOOD MAN, SO I KEPT DRAWING UNTIL I FELT LIKE THAT HAPPENED. THIS STORY ENDS HERE. BUT WHAT WILL KYOUICHI-SAN AND IMAGASE DO AFTER THIS? THEY ARE VERY DEAR TO ME. I THINK I WILL BE HAPPY IF YOU ALL LOVE THEM IN YOUR HEARTS FROM TIME TO TIME.

THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH ME UNTIL THE END. ALONG WITH THE MANY EDITORS INVOLVED, I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL THE READERS WHO PATIENTLY KEPT READING THIS SERIES, PIECE BY PIECE, AS IT CONTINUED OVER THE YEARS.

SETONA MIZUSHIRO SPRING 2009

水城せとな 2009春



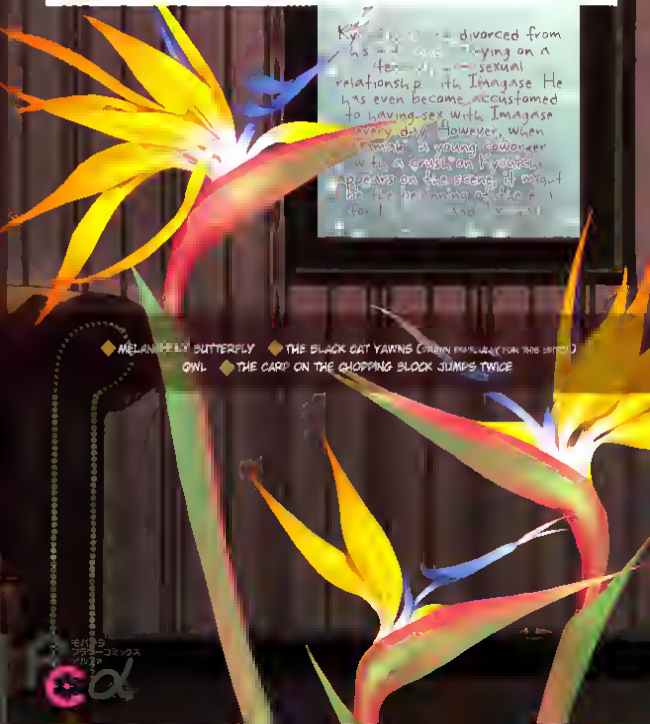
HUH? OH, YOU NOTICED?
Yay! I got a many, too
Sparkle Sparkle
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION OR DO YOU WANT ME TO ASK ABOUT THAT RING?
THAT'S ALL VERY WELL BUT
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE
I KNEW YOU'D GET TOGETHER WITH A YOUNGER MAN NATSUKI-SENPAI
WHAT? YOU'RE LUCKY I'M JEALOUS
HE GOT ME A BOTTLE OF WINE FROM THE YEAR OF MY BIRTH AND A BOTTEGA SHOULDER BAG
Sparkle
IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY THE OTHER DAY
WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER SOME DRINKS?
BUT YOU'VE SUNK TO THE LEVEL OF SOME SILLY WOMAN
Because you're clinging to a silly man
IMAGINE YOU WERE A GOOD GUY—
Me? I'm already an old geezer
It's nice that he's five years younger
A young lad I'm jealous
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A CUTE YOUNG HUSBAND NATSUKI-SENPAI
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE ON THE ROCKS
CASSIS ORANGE
Sigh
NO I'M JEALOUS OF THE BAG
I don't want that man!
IF I WANT SOMETHING I HAVE TO BUY IT WITH MY OWN MONEY
For your information you're in the "bubble years" of love

ISBN978-4-09-132515-0

C9979 ¥476E

定価：本体476円＋税

雑誌 46035-15　小学館



# Setona Mizushiro

## Chapter Four

## The Carp on the Chopping Block Jumps Twice

FLOWER COMICS 2009
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY MOBILE FLOWER, DECEMBER 20, 2008 - APRIL 20, 2009

scanner: presencedear
translator: presencedear
additional translation and translation assistance: akiko s., kajin, kokiden, reppu, zl
cleaners: txilar, kajin
typesetter: txilar

copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro


copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro


copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro


copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro


copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro


copyright(c) Setona Mizushiro